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REPORTS

FROM

COMMISSIONERS:

FIFTEEN VOLUMES.

—(8.– PART I.)—

POOR LAWS (ENGLAND.)

Session

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N. B.—*THE* Figures *at the* beginning of the line, *correspond with the* N° *at the foot of each* Report; *and the* Figures *at the* end of the line, *refer to the* MS. Paging *of the Volumes arranged for The House of Commons.*

POOR LAWS (ENGLAND):

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SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS

FOR

ENGLAND AND WALES;

TOGETHER WITH

Appendixes A. B. C. D.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
19 *August* 1836.

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REPORT.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD JOHN RUSSELL,
HIS MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE
HOME DEPARTMENT.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,
17 August 1836.

MY LORD,

IN the First Annual Report which, in pursuance of the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, we had the honour to submit to your Lordship, we described the confusion which prevailed from ignorance as to the nature of the change made in the general administration of relief at the time when His Majesty was graciously pleased to charge us with the duties of this Commission. We set forth the instructional letters which we then issued to promulgate a knowledge of the law, and of the measures which we recommended for adoption to bring it gradually, and with the least amount of suffering, into complete operation. We stated the grounds for the early substitution of relief in kind for relief in money, and the nature of the obstacles which we encountered in endeavouring to place the out-door relief of the able-bodied (even temporarily) upon any safe footing; and the consequent necessity under which we found ourselves of proceeding, by the most direct course practicable, to the general establishment of well-regulated workhouses, in which the destitute should be relieved according to their necessities, but without being advanced to a condition above those classes who maintain themselves by the fruits of their own independent labour.

We stated the further necessity under which we found ourselves placed of proceeding, as a first step for the accomplishment of this object, to the general extension of the district of management by the formation of new unions. We adduced as the grounds of that necessity, the small size of the existing parishes, and the consequent want of efficient establishments of paid officers; the impossibility of properly classifying the paupers; the loss of the advantages of wholesale management; the obstructions occasioned by the adverse and conflicting interests which prevail in the smaller districts, but which are neutralized in the larger ones; together with the impediments to the public business necessarily arising from so great a multiplicity of separate small places of management. We then submitted to your Lordship the regulations we had framed for the government of workhouses; for the general guidance of the officers; for the regulation of out-door relief during its continuance; for the election of Guardians; and for keeping the accounts, and the audit of this branch of the public expenditure, upon one uniform system. In that Report we also stated the measures we had taken to promote the migration of apparently surplus labourers from the pauperized districts of the southern counties, to the manufacturing districts, where there was an increasing demand for labour; and the facilities which we had provided for emigration where it appeared to be needed.

We stated at the close of that Report, that we saw nothing in the situation of the then unvisited counties which would be likely to induce us to deviate materially from the course of proceeding we had then adopted, although, under the varied circumstances of the different districts, we were unable to form an accurate estimate of the future rate of progress in our labours.

In conformity with the views and opinions thus expressed, we proceeded to extend the application of the principles of management we had already been acting upon, by forming Unions of Parishes, establishing Boards of Guardians, making arrangements for providing adequate workhouses, and applying, with such slight modifications as local circumstances required, the same rules and regulations which were laid before your Lordship in the Appendix to our First Report. Every day's experience confirmed us in the opinion, that the principles which the Legislature sought to bring into operation by means of the Poor Law

Amendment Act could never be generally and effectively introduced without the aid of Boards of Guardians and their subordinate officers, and the sanction of well-regulated workhouses; and it was evident to us, that no beneficial result would be obtained by our issuing rules and regulations for parishes in which there existed no adequate power for carrying them into effect.

The general state of this country at the close of the last year appeared to us so extremely favourable for the introduction of the amended system of Poor Law administration, that we considered it of essential importance that we should be furnished with the only effectual means of carrying the Act into execution within a short and definite period. For that purpose we submitted to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury a plan for dividing the whole of England and Wales into 21 districts; and having been authorized by their Lordships to increase the number of our Assistant Commissioners from 15 to 21, we entertained a confident hope, which has been confirmed by our subsequent progress, that, by assigning one to each district, we should be able by Midsummer next to bring the Act into operation in every part of the country, in which our exertions are not impeded by the existence of Gilbert's Act Incorporations, or by some Local Act, or other similar impediments.

It may be useful to recal to your Lordship's recollection, that at the presentation of our last Report we had (between the 1st December 1834 and the 8th August 1835) formed 2,066 parishes into 112 Unions, and placed three parishes under separate Boards of Guardians. Since that period our progress has been as follows: 5,835 parishes have been formed into 239 Unions; and 11 single parishes have been placed under Boards of Guardians, making a gross total of additional parishes placed under the regulations of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 5,846; in which parishes the total amount of rates is 2,690,695*l.*, and the total amount of the population, 4,836,816.

If we combine these with the 112 Unions alluded to in our last Report, the total results will be as follows:

PERIODS.	Number of Boards of Guardians.			TOTAL of Parishes.	Population.	Amount of Poor Rates.
	For Unions.	For Single Parishes.	TOTAL.			
						£.
To 8 Aug. 1835 -	112	3	115	2,069	1,385,124	1,221,543
From 8 Aug. 1835 to 10 Aug. 1836 -	239	11	250	5,846	4,836,816	2,690,695
Total - -	351	14	365	7,915	6,221,940	3,912,238

The proportion of the total population, comprized in the new Unions, is 45 per cent. of the population of England and Wales; but, from the most heavily-burthened districts having been selected, the proportion of rates expended in the parishes united is 65 per cent. of the total expenditure for the relief of the poor in England and Wales.

A complete exposition of the particulars of each Union, in continuation of that inserted in the Appendix (D.) to our last Report, will be found in the Appendix to this Report. Appendix (D.) No. 6.

It would greatly exceed the limits to which we think it desirable to confine this Report, if we were to attempt to give a detailed account of the proceedings of our Assistant Commissioners in their respective districts. That such information, however, may not be altogether wanting, we have obtained, from each of those officers, a general report on the state of his district, and of such particulars as he considered to be deserving of special notice; and those documents, which, we are persuaded, your Lordship will not think devoid of interest or information, will be found in the Appendix. Appendix (B.)

In what we are about to state, we shall confine ourselves to the explanation of such points as have, in the course of our labours, forced themselves prominently upon our attention; and shall conclude by laying before your Lordship such an exposition as may enable you to judge whether the result of the measure

sure, from which so much has been both hoped and feared, has hitherto been such as to answer the just expectations of the Government and the country.

It could not be expected, that an Act which so materially disturbed the distribution of as large a sum of money as 7,000,000*l.* per annum, which of necessity changed the source from which a large portion of the inhabitants of the country derived their customary means of subsistence, and which in so doing opposed itself not only to the interests, the prejudices, and the fears of a large portion of the population, but pressed hardly on the sincere though mistaken notions of charity, which were established in the breasts of others, could possibly be carried into effect without difficulty and resistance. Your Lordship, therefore, will learn without surprise, that the powers of the Act, and our means of carrying it into operation, have been put to the proof by every means which ingenuity could devise. That the pauper labourers themselves, whose interests were to be so greatly affected, should adopt this course was naturally to be anticipated. It is due, however, to the good sense and acuteness of this class of persons to say, that they very quickly understood the true bearing of the Act; and that in many districts they set themselves, without much delay, fairly and honestly to seek a livelihood by their own industry. Many striking instances of the revival of this feeling amongst that portion of the working classes will be found in the Reports of our Assistant Commissioners. In other places, where a reliance on the poor-rate had become engrafted in the manners and habits of the labouring population, every method has been resorted to for the purpose of impeding the operation of the law. Partial riots have occurred in different counties; but by the aid of small parties of the Metropolitan police (who, by the provisions of a most useful Act of the last session, can now be sworn in and paid as special constables in any county of England and Wales), occasionally aided by the support of a military force, these disturbances have been put down without any considerable injury to property.

The attempt to introduce classification and discipline in the disorderly workhouse at Heckingham, in Suffolk, (in which a large number of paupers had been congregated under the imperfect arrangements of a Local Act,) was followed by setting fire to the workhouse, about one-fourth of which was actually consumed. Similar attempts were made at Saffron Walden and Bishop's Stortford; but by the activity and energy of the Guardians of these Boards, any extensive mischief was prevented. Resistance to the introduction of the Act has manifested itself also in parts of Devonshire, where, in the neighbourhood of South Molton, a small body of police, supported by the authority and personal activity of the lord lieutenant and the magistrates, soon established order. More difficulty, however, has been experienced in the neighbourhood of Okehampton, where persons interested in the continuance of the old system, had contrived to infuse into the minds of the peasantry the most idle and groundless apprehensions; such, for instance, as that the acceptance of the smallest relief exposed parties to the forfeiture of all their goods; that the bread distributed by the relieving officers was mixed with poisonous ingredients.

In this, however, as in other instances, we entertain no doubt that the combined authority of the magistracy, and the steady perseverance which we confidently expect from the Guardians of the Unions, will ultimately carry into effect the intentions of the Legislature. Open and direct resistance on the part of the paupers has, in no one instance, been permitted to prevail, and we have the highest satisfaction in being able to state, that in the maintenance of the authority of the law, no loss of life has occurred.

It is not, however, by direct resistance alone, that attempts have been made to avert the introduction of the law. Evasions of every kind, appeals to mistaken compassion, to indirect interests, to ignorant and rooted prejudices, and to the influence of office, have been resorted to, though happily with little success. These attempts to impede the new law have been made so perseveringly, and under such a variety of forms, that it is impossible for us to do more than notice some of those which appear to be most prominent and important.

The main reliance for the discouragement of pauperism, and for the establishment of independent habits amongst the labouring classes, is founded on the workhouse system; and although there is no doubt of the correctness and efficacy of the principle, still the greatest care is required in the application of its details. The labouring classes in the pauperized districts are at present inclined to struggle

earnestly to get their own livelihood, rather than seek a maintenance within the walls of a workhouse; but it is evident that the inducement to do so would cease, if ever a residence within a workhouse should be made as desirable as that in a cottage.

The necessary effect of our rules and regulations is, to supply the inmates of a workhouse with wholesome food and sufficient clothing, a better bed than they are used to lie upon, a cleaner and a better ventilated room than they are used to inhabit, an immediate supply of medical attendance in case of illness, and to establish a degree of order and cleanliness unknown in a labourer's cottage. These are all superior to what the pauper has been previously accustomed to; and it is owing mainly to the effect produced by the classification which is necessary to be observed in a workhouse, and to that degree of order and restraint which our rules enforce, that the workhouse principle is rendered really effective.

Complaints of the insufficiency of the allowances of food in the workhouses have occasionally been made by persons of the higher classes, but they have seldom sprung from the pauper inmates, habituated to scanty cottage fare. By them the complaints respecting the workhouse are invariably directed against the confinement which it imposes, and the separation which necessarily takes place within its walls between members of the same family.

Every method has therefore been resorted to, to induce or to force us to break down these restraints. The separation of men from their wives in the different apartments of the same house, though long acquiesced in as a matter of course in all well-regulated workhouses, both in London and the country, and though maintained amongst soldiers and sailors of all descriptions without murmur or complaint, continues to be made use of as a subject of inflammatory harangues, by persons desirous of exciting a resistance to the new law.

Attempts have also been made, in almost every form which ingenuity could suggest, to evade or subvert the rule which renders it necessary for a pauper who resorts to a workhouse for a maintenance, to continue altogether within its limits during the time he receives relief. The doors of the workhouse are always open to him whenever he will exert himself for his own support; but the liberty of going in and out at pleasure cannot consistently with the objects of the Act be freely admitted.

The most powerful of the attempts to break down this essential rule have reached us in the form of applications that paupers should be permitted to go out on Sundays for the purpose of attending places of worship. Of these applications, the one which has attracted most notice was transmitted from several clergymen in Kent, (of the perfect sincerity and uprightness of whose intentions we entertain not the slightest doubt,) pressing us in the strongest and most earnest terms to permit the paupers of the Eastry Workhouse to go on Sundays to their several parish churches.

We must not omit to state that the means of providing Divine Worship in the rural districts, under efficient and proper regulations for the various inmates of the Workhouse, have received our most careful attention; and we think we cannot bring before your Lordship a better representation of the result of our regulation, than by inserting in the Appendix a copy of Mr. Tufnell's Report on the case of the Eastry Union just adverted to. We shall take occasion to draw your Lordship's attention more fully to this subject in a subsequent part of this Report, when we treat of the Metropolitan parishes and their workhouses.

Appendix (C.) No. 2.

In the Poor Law Amendment Bill, as first submitted to the consideration of Parliament, a clause was inserted which directed that all relief to able-bodied paupers out of a Workhouse should cease on the 1st of July 1835. In the progress of the Bill through Parliament this clause was withdrawn, and the Commissioners were charged with the important duty of fixing the time when in each Union that provision (which formed the first recommendation of the Commissioners of Poor Law Inquiry, and is, in fact, the main object of the Poor Law Amendment Act) should take effect.

We have not ceased to bear in mind this very important part of our functions, and we have carefully watched the progress made in the districts first formed into Unions, for the purpose of ascertaining at what time and to what extent the provision might be enforced in them. To many persons it may, we fear,

fear, be a matter of surprise as well as of regret, that we have as yet applied the rule prohibiting out-door relief to the able-bodied, only to a very limited extent: although some Unions anticipated our wishes, and of their own authority withheld all relief out of the workhouse to able-bodied paupers. With respect to other Rural Unions, the order has, after investigation and report by our Assistant Commissioners, been issued by ourselves. Several of the best managed Unions in Kent and Sussex, and in Berks, Oxford and Gloucestershire, were evidently in a state to admit of this regulation when applied to able-bodied male paupers only; and availing ourselves of the season of the year and other favourable circumstances, we deemed it expedient to apply the rule in question successively to the following Unions:

In Sussex, eighteen; namely,

Westhampnett,	Uckfield,
Westbourn,	Horsham,
Midhurst,	Petworth,
Thakeham,	Lewes,
Eastbourne,	East Grinstead,
West Firle,	Cuckfield,
Newhaven,	Chailey,
Battle,	Ticehurst,
Hailsham,	Hastings.

In Gloucester, fourteen; namely,

Gloucester,	Chipping Sodbury,
Wheatenhurst,	Clifton,
Newent,	Dursley,
Westbury,	Stroud,
Cheltenham,	Tetbury,
Tewkesbury,	Thornbury,
Winchcomb,	Upton-upon-Severn.

In Kent, nine; namely,

Sheppey,	Romney Marsh,
Milton,	Hollingbourn,
Faversham,	West Ashford,
Blean,	Tenterden.
Bridge,	

In Berks, nine; namely,

Bradfield,	Farringdon,
Wantage,	Abingdon,
Hungerford,	Reading,
Wokingham,	Newbury.
Easthamstead,	

In Nottingham, three; namely, Newark, Southwell, Basford.
In Hampshire, three; namely, Fareham, Catherington, Lymington.
In Oxon, two; namely, Henley, Banbury.
In Somerset, two; namely, Bath, Keynsham.
In Dorset, two; namely, Poole, Wimborne.
In Leicester, one; Lutterworth.
In Devon, one; South Molton.
In all, sixty-four Unions.

It is satisfactory to us to be able to state, that objections to the carrying of the rule into effect have been raised in three Unions only; namely, in Petworth, Uckfield and Ticehurst.

No doubt can be entertained that it was the deliberate intention of Parliament, in framing the Poor Law Amendment Act, that all out-door relief to the able-bodied should cease at the earliest period that it could safely, and with propriety, be put an end to; and the question which we have successively to decide as to each Union is, "Whether this time may be fairly deemed to have arrived?" And as the workhouses are sufficient for the paupers with respect to whom

the difficulty is said to occur, in the three last-named Unions, what time less unfavourable than the present can be expected to arrive for carrying into effect the undoubted purpose of the Legislature? Our adherence therefore to the rule which we have issued, though in some measure at variance with the opinions and wishes of the Guardians of these Unions, will, we trust, be deemed consistent with the strict line of our duty.

Your Lordship will observe that the rule which has given rise to the difficulty we have been describing is, with a very few exceptions, applied only to able-bodied male paupers. We have deferred its application to paupers of the other sex. The indiscriminate allowances, however, which in many districts have been habitually granted, almost as a matter of course, to widows, and to persons advanced in life, have led many Boards of Guardians to scrutinize the lists of paupers of this description, and to put to the proof the actual destitution of many long-established pensioners on the rates. It has always been our wish that the principles of the law should be applied without severity to aged persons; it has happened, however, in these examinations, that some of those individuals with respect to whom the guardians decided that the workhouse should be practically applied have appealed against that decision to the magistrates, who, as your Lordship is aware, are empowered, under certain restrictions, to order that the relief, which shall be given to the pauper, shall be administered out of the workhouse.

Many questions have been put to us, as to the extent of the power conferred on the magistrates by this clause in the Act; and it has been necessary for us to point out that the order which two magistrates are empowered to make, when one of them can certify that of his own knowledge the aged pauper is wholly unable to work, can, in itself, go no further than to direct that the relief to be given shall not be in the workhouse. Both the amount and the quality of the relief which is to be assigned to the individuals, is to be decided upon and awarded solely by the Guardians, by whom alone, by the 54th section of the Act, the power of ordering and regulating the relief to the poor is (subject to our orders and regulations) to be exercised.

Other questions have arisen too as to the form in which the magistrates' order is to be issued; with respect to which point we have had to state, that it appears to be intended by the Act, that in all cases the first applications for relief shall be made to the Board of Guardians; that in the case of their refusal to give relief to an aged person wholly unable to work, it is competent to two magistrates to order (if they shall deem it necessary) that relief shall be given out of the workhouse; and as the Guardians are the only persons capable of giving effect to that order, or of deciding on the amount of the relief so to be given, it appears to follow, that the order should be addressed to the Board of Guardians, and not to the overseers.

We trust that we have brought successively before your Lordship sufficient illustrations of the general character of the difficulties which have, in a greater or less degree, impeded or embarrassed our progress in carrying the law into effect. None of them singly can be considered as of great moment; and there is nothing which at present opposes any very material obstruction to our course, but the existence of the Gilbert's Act Unions, in many of which the Directors are still so imperfectly informed as to the real interests of those for whom they act, as to maintain a pertinacious resistance to the introduction of the provisions of the new law.

We entered into the discussion of this subject in our last Report to your Lordship. We stated there what we now repeat, that the provisions of Gilbert's Act are at variance with the whole tenor and principle of the Poor Law Amendment Act; that Gilbert's Act not only sanctions, but in the clearest and most distinct terms requires the Guardians to find work for all able-bodied paupers out of the workhouse, on conditions and under regulations which are wholly incompatible with either the real welfare of the paupers or the interests of the rate-payers. We refer your Lordship to the Report of our Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Hall, (which is inserted in the Appendix,) for a very forcible exposition of the difficulties which have been opposed to his operations in the county of Leicester.

When we submitted for your Lordship's consideration the Bill by which we proposed to facilitate the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and which was by your Lordship submitted to the consideration of Parliament, we had prepared, in case it should be required of us, an exposition of the circumstances which

which appeared to us to render the provisions of that Bill desirable for the advancement of the public service.

This exposition, besides a more full statement of some of the inconveniences and obstructions, to which we have briefly adverted in the present Report, contained statements of other facts which we have thought it unnecessary to press upon your attention on this occasion, inasmuch as we may take a more fitting opportunity, whenever it may be thought requisite, to recommend the adoption of such new legislative provisions or amendments as the practical working of the new system may prove to be necessary.

We trust that, in the meantime, the opposition to the new measures sanctioned by the Legislature, will be abated by the evidence of the good effects already achieved; and that, although we cannot, without consent of two-thirds of the Directors, introduce into the incorporations under Gilbert's Act the more complete machinery in use under the Poor Law Amendment Act, we may yet apply, in an efficient manner, the less complete means in our power for the attainment of the objects of the Legislature, and the protection of the labouring classes within those incorporations from the demoralizing influence of pauperism.

We insert the following table for the purpose of showing the extent to which pauperism has been reduced, and the rates diminished, in those parishes formerly included in incorporations under Gilbert's Acts, but which, on the dissolution of such incorporations, have been since included in the new Unions.

NAME of the INCORPORATION.	When Dissolved.	In what Union included.	Expenditure under Gilbert's Act.	Expenditure under the Poor Law Amendment Act.	Saving.	Rate per Cent.
	1835:		£.	£.	£.	£.
Easebourne - - Sussex	12 May -	Midhurst - -	10,135	3,204	6,931	68
Westhampnett - - ditto	25 March	Westhampnett -	3,522	1,488	2,034	58
Selling - - - Kent	25 March	Faversham, East Ashford, Sheppey.	6,817	2,964	3,853	56
Yapton - - - Sussex	23 Feb.	Westhampnett -	2,274	1,056	1,218	53
Bearstead - - - Kent	22 Sept.	Coxheath - -	5,560	2,672	2,888	52
Cosford - - - Suffolk	31 July -	Cosford - - -	9,248	4,770	4,478	48
Bosmere and Claydon - ditto	7 Sept.	Bosmere and Claydon, Ipswich.	10,816	5,827	4,989	46
Stow - - - ditto	23 Oct.	Stow - - -	5,046	2,876	2,170	43
Martin - - - Kent	4 April	Eastry, River - -	2,248	1,320	928	41
Wallingford - - Berks	2 June	Wallingford - -	1,812	1,084	728	40
Thakeham - - - Sussex	12 May	Thakeham - -	3,132	1,916	1,216	39
Harbledown - - Kent	25 March	Blean, Faversham, Bridge.	3,216	1,992	1,224	38
Colneis and Carlford - Suffolk	2 Oct.	Woodbridge - -	10,559	7,013	3,546	33
Blything - - - ditto	24 June	Blything - - -	20,298	14,103	6,195	30½
Eastry - - - Kent	27 April	Eastry, River, Elham	7,087	5,128	1,959	28
River - - - ditto	27 April	River, Eastry, Elham	8,237	6,222	2,015	24
Archbishop's Palace - ditto	20 April	Blean, Bridge, Eastry	4,145	3,404	741	18
		£.	114,152	67,039	47,113	41

In the foregoing observations we have confined ourselves to a description of our proceedings in the rural districts; but when, in the autumn of 1835, we turned our attention to the arrangement of the parishes in and around London, circumstances of altogether a different character presented themselves to our notice.

The general management of the poor was on somewhat a better footing than in the country parishes; and abuses, where they existed, were of a different character. Almost every parish had a workhouse; and as the rule which enforces the separation of the men from the women, has for many years been established in many of these houses, we have found little difficulty in establishing the necessary classification. Want of space for additional yards and airing-grounds has been the chief obstacle to the improvement of the workhouses in these parishes.

It was not an unfrequent practice with the London Boards to meet in the evening, and to continue their sittings to a late hour. In many of the newly-elected Boards we have succeeded in establishing an early attendance; and the result has in every instance been advantageous.

The discontinuance of out-door relief to able-bodied paupers in the London parishes has also been rendered comparatively easy, by the great demand for labour which exists, both for men and women, in the Metropolis. In the important and populous parish of Camberwell, which was placed under the regulations of the Poor Law Amendment Act on the 28th day of October 1835, this object has been already effected; and, except to widows with children, and to aged and infirm persons, no out-door relief is allowed. St. Saviour's and the Strand Unions have nearly accomplished the same end; and Lambeth is making rapid advances towards it; nothing, indeed, can be more satisfactory than the accounts which we receive of the working of the new system in Lambeth. It is as yet too early to obtain documentary evidence of this result; but on some future occasion we shall be prepared to lay before your Lordship the clearest evidence of the benefits which have attended the establishment of our regulations in this parish.

It is to be observed, that workhouses, in what it may perhaps be convenient to call the Metropolitan district, are chiefly occupied by adults and children above the age of nurture. By an Act 7 Geo. 3, c. 39, it is required that children under six years of age shall be maintained at a distance of three or five miles, according to their ages, from the Metropolis. This provision has given rise to establishments for the reception of children, some of which belong to particular parishes, and are regulated by the parish officers: others are private establishments, and the pauper children are provided for within them by contract. Our attention was drawn to the state of one of the latter class of these establishments by the prevalence of disease, which, from some peculiarity of circumstances, had, in a very distressing and remarkable degree, affected the children belonging to the parish of St. James, Westminster. We thought it our duty to cause an immediate examination to be made into the state of this establishment, both by our Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Mott, and also by Dr. Arnott, whose able report upon it, particularly with reference to the principles of ventilation, as applicable to such establishments, is entitled to notice, and which, with that view, we insert in the Appendix. There appears to be every reason to believe that the health of the children was injured by their being too much crowded together, particularly in the dormitories. The food appeared to have been sufficient, and of good quality; and there was no defect as to cleanliness. Medical attendance too was given by a very competent practitioner, whenever he was called upon. The distressing malady which prevailed is not likely to recur during the summer months, when the children are much out of doors: we hope before the winter to establish, with respect to these institutions, some regulations which will, for the future, preserve them in a healthy state.

Appendix (C.) No. 1.

There is one difficulty incident to the London workhouses in common with those in the country; namely, that which arises in connexion with the arrangements for providing the means of Divine worship. In some of the Metropolitan parishes it has been the practice to let the paupers go out on Sundays, in order that they may have the opportunity of attending their respective places of Divine worship; and we do not doubt that there have been many instances in which that object has been answered, and the privilege has not been abused. With respect to children, indeed, there is frequently but little difficulty in preventing abuse, seats in the churches being commonly provided for the workhouse children, and they can be attended to and fro by their teachers. It is evident, however, that with respect to adults, this species of control is in most cases not practicable; and we are assured by those best acquainted with the subject, that instead of seeking for a seat in church, which a pauper would not always be able easily to find, the day is too commonly passed in begging and dissipation. Mr. Benjamin Hewett, who has been the master of the workhouse of St. Andrew and St. George the Martyr, Holborn, 12 years, and during that period has constantly had the charge of about 450 paupers, states, "In our parish we have always had a Chaplain; but the paupers who are Catholics or Dissenters have been allowed to go out on Sunday, and in other respects our regulations were not so strict. The consequence has been that I do not remember one Sunday that has passed during the last 12 years without some scene of drunkenness or disturbance, occasioned by those paupers who have thus had leave to go out. They have been carried home by the police drunk, and with their clothes torn, followed by trains of vagabonds; they have been complained of by the inhabitants for the disturbances they committed,

mitted, and in very many instances they have been imprisoned to no purpose. One woman named Shields, a catholic, has been imprisoned at least six times each year. Another old woman named Manning, a pauper, about 80 years of age, has never gone out on leave to go to the Catholic chapel that she has not returned drunk.

"What has been the effect of the new regulations, which prohibit paupers going out on Sunday, on the general management of the house?—We are now perfectly quiet and orderly, and the paupers are well behaved; the sick and the infirm make no complaints on the score of disturbances. The complaints which we always had before of the noise and outcries of such characters preventing them sleeping, have entirely discontinued; we are now as quiet as any private house, and no persons can behave better than the inmates now do.

"Have any means occurred to you of permitting paupers to go out on Sundays to their places of worship, and of avoiding disorder?—None. I have tried several, and have never succeeded; I know of no means but sending a person to take care of them, and we have no means of doing this where the numbers, though small, go to different chapels. Besides, if this liberty was given, almost all the paupers would turn Catholics and Dissenters for the privilege which would enable them to go out and beg, and get the means of getting liquor and indulging themselves in vice. We have had some of them diseased. There could be no means so good as setting a place apart in the house for the Dissenters, in which their worship may be celebrated. I have suggested this myself, and I should be very glad to do so to preserve the peace and morality of the inmates. There is no difficulty in finding a small room for the numbers."

Mr. Drouet, the master of Lambeth workhouse, who has held that office for nearly 13 years, and during the last six years has constantly had under his care an average of about 800 paupers, states, "What Mr. Hewett says as to the effect of allowing paupers to go out on leave, is exactly applicable to the experience of our parish. The Chairman of our Board of Guardians has been round to the clergymen of all denominations within the parish, and they agree that the paupers will be a great deal better in every respect within the workhouse. All the masters of workhouses agree as to the same facts; I never heard a dissentient opinion amongst them."

Much of the objection to the regulation appears to have been founded upon an erroneous estimate of the characters of the greater proportion of those who, from the want of friends or otherwise, are compelled to accept relief in a workhouse. The evidence of other permanent officers, as to the general character of the inmates of the workhouse, is of the same tenor.

Mr. Fitch, the clerk to the Board of Guardians of St. George's parish, Southwark, states, "The beadles have from time to time, before the adoption of the new Poor Law, complained to me that they have had to turn out paupers in a state of drunkenness from the church.

"From my knowledge of the characters of the paupers in the workhouse, I should say that not more than 10 in the workhouse, which contains between 300 and 400 paupers, are persons of former reputable life."

Mr. Huish, an experienced relieving officer of the same parish, states, "I should say that not more than 10 out of 100 could be trusted out of the workhouse."

We may cite the reports of Dr. Kay and Mr. Tufnell in illustration of the fact, that in the rural districts a similar relaxation is followed by similar effects. Such a relaxation could only be proposed in ignorance of the condition of the paupers, and of the habitual want of self-control and prudence which is the general cause of their condition. The testimony of dispassionate and well-informed witnesses tends to establish the conclusion that such license must continue to be, as it has heretofore been, a license to avoid the religious instruction which has been provided for them in the house, and to indulge in sinful acts of disorder and irreligion, and all those habits which it is one great object of religious observances to repress.

Appendix (B.) Nos. 1 & 2; and (C.) No. 2.

There can be no doubt that if the attendance on Divine Worship is the object sincerely to be sought, throwing open the workhouse doors on Sunday is not the best mode of securing it. If all the inmates of a workhouse were of one religious persuasion, we should have done all that was necessary when we had availed ourselves of the power conferred by the Act, and appointed a chaplain to perform

Divine Service in some commodious room prepared for the purpose. A difficulty, however, has arisen as to all those who dissent from the Established Church; with respect to whom our powers are only permissive, and we can do no more than admit the licensed ministers of the different denominations of Christians to have free access to all those who agree with them in religious opinion. Thus in the workhouse of the parish of Shoreditch there are three services performed successively in the course of Sunday; one by the curate of the parish, who is chaplain, and two by dissenting ministers to their own particular followers.

It is clear, however, that the rule prohibiting paupers from quitting the workhouse on a Sunday must apply to all classes of adults alike. There may be individual cases of exception; but we are assured, that if the rule should be relaxed in favour of any particular sect, the other inmates of the house would undergo a nominal conversion, and would at once profess themselves of the favoured creed, whatever it might be, if by so doing they could avail themselves of the opportunity which it would secure to them of going out on a Sunday.

It is necessary, however, for us to add, that in workhouses in which no chaplain has been appointed, and in which no adequate accommodation exists for the performance of Divine Service, the rule has been relaxed, and the inmates of the house have for a time been permitted, under certain regulations, to go out for the purpose of attending Divine Worship.

Some difficulties have occurred as to the regulations under which the attendance of ministers of different religious persuasions could be permitted for the exercise of their functions within a workhouse; and on this subject we cannot do better than refer to the explanation already given to your Lordship, in answer to a letter from a dissenting clergyman at Abingdon, and which is inserted in the Appendix to this Report. We are duly sensible of the delicacy and importance of the arrangements which bear upon this subject, and in dealing with it under the provisions of the Act by which our proceedings are regulated, nothing shall be done which is not consistent with the principles of religious liberty.

Appendix (A.) No. 8.

Some of the evils arising from multiplied and confused jurisdiction had forced themselves upon our attention in the arrangement of some of the rural Unions. These were trifling, however, in comparison with the complexity existing in the Metropolitan districts. There are, in the city of London and the Metropolitan boroughs, about 170 parishes, almost all of which contain governing bodies of their own. In some of them, the parish business is professedly managed by an open vestry, consisting of the whole body of rate-payers; in others by Select Vestries, in which the members appoint each other, filling up vacancies as they occur, without any reference to the rate-payers. In addition to these, there are elective vestries under Sturges Bourne's Act, Sir John Hobhouse's Act, and other general Acts. But the greater number of the large London parishes were managed under local Acts by boards of directors, governors and trustees, usually composed of from 40 to 120 members.

These governing bodies execute a great variety of very important functions: in some cases they manage the paving, lighting and cleansing the parishes; and generally the repairs of churches and other public buildings, together with the distribution of trust-property left for a variety of charitable uses are in their hands.

The power, patronage and the indirect advantages which arise from the administration of the funds, which, for these purposes, are placed at the almost uncontrolled disposal of the different local authorities are so great, that although it is in our power to affect only a part of these functions, and to remove from the governing bodies the administration of the funds for the relief of the poor only, any interference with those funds could not fail to create considerable resistance. In many of the parishes the constitution (under the Poor Law Amendment Act) of a board to be annually chosen and freely elected by the rate-payers, and consisting of such a number of members (usually from 19 to 24) as fitted it for the transaction of business, was hailed with satisfaction by all those whose power was not about to be disturbed by the change; and in almost all the districts which we have acted upon, as soon as the first struggle has been overcome, the new system has been found to give satisfaction to the parishioners.

It was evident, however, that as our operations had provided for a part only of the parochial funds, the other branches of expenditure above adverted to must

must continue to stand in the same confused and anomalous position as before. In some of the parishes, functions connected with levying the poor-rate still remain in the former Boards of Direction, which must, as it appears, be kept alive for that purpose. In the parish of Shoreditch, a Board consisting of 120 Directors remains in existence for the purpose of managing the churchyard and some trifling and unimportant trusts.

It forms no part of our duty to interfere with any matters which do not relate to the relief of the poor; but when we are told (as we frequently have been), You have been enabled by the Legislature to give us an admirably constructed Board, freely and fairly chosen from amongst the best qualified of our parishioners, and which we have the opportunity of renewing annually, what more can we want for the management of our affairs? why can we not be permitted to place all our parish expenditure in their hands?—to such questions we can only answer, that the matter is beyond our control; but in submitting to your Lordship the draft of a Bill which purposed to remove some of the difficulties which impede our proceedings, we inserted a clause which was intended to enable any Board of Directors, situated as that of Shoreditch is, to transfer the remnant of their duties to the Poor Law Guardians, and to charge them with the execution of their functions.

Having in the course of the autumn and winter placed under Boards of Guardians all the larger parishes on the Surrey side of the river, and formed into Union the two parishes of St. Saviour and Christchurch, and also the three parishes of St. Olave, St. John and St. Thomas, we extended our operations to the district which lies on the east of the city of London, comprehending the important parishes of Bethnal Green, Shoreditch and St. George in the East; postponing any interference with the city parishes, amounting to 114 in number, in the hope that Parliament would enable us to consolidate some of the small parishes, for the purpose of electing one Guardian. We then proceeded to form the Strand Union, which consists of the parishes of St. Clement Danes, St. Mary-le-Strand, St. Paul Covent Garden, the precinct of the Savoy, and the Liberty of the Rolls (and which we have much satisfaction in saying, is proceeding in the most satisfactory manner); and also the Union of St. Andrew's and St. George the Martyr, Holborn, with some adjoining liberties; and extended our operations so far to the westward as to issue our order in the usual form for the election of a Board of Guardians in St. Pancras. This was at first opposed by the existing parish authorities on the ground of its alleged illegality; it being affirmed that in any parish in which the provisions of Sir John Hobhouse's Act had been adopted, it was not competent to us to interfere with a Board of Directors so elected. As a wish was expressed on the part of some of the gentlemen who compose the St. Pancras Board of Directors, that the opinion of the law officers of the Crown and of Sir William Follett should be taken as to this point, we suspended our proceedings for the purpose of obtaining that opinion, and as, when obtained, it left no doubt of our power, we renewed our order. Under that order a Board of Guardians was elected for St. Pancras on the 31st May last; but as it consisted, with only one or two exceptions, of the members of the Board of Directors already alluded to, they, when they assembled, announced their determination not to act in the capacity of Guardians. As this was a novel case, more time and care are necessary for the purpose of ascertaining the right course of proceeding than is usual in ordinary cases of resistance to the law.

It was at first understood by us to have been agreed by the St. Pancras Directors, that the decision of the Court of King's Bench, on application for a mandamus, would have been abided by. That decision could not be obtained in regular course before the term ended; and your Lordship is already cognizant of the course which has been subsequently pursued, and which has for its object the determination of the question by the highest legal tribunal, without involving the parties in a detailed contest for penalties before the Magistrates, in the mode pointed out by the Act.

One of the objections raised by the elected Guardians of St. Pancras, is the expense and delay of the system of election which is created by the Poor Law Amendment Act; and on this head it is to be observed, that the benefits of an annual election, freely and fairly conducted, when the number of persons entitled to vote exceeds 9,000, cannot be obtained without both delay and expense.

We are assured, nevertheless, from authority which we think we can rely on, that if means were adopted to prevent candidates from being proposed, as on the last occasion, merely for the purpose of creating difficulties and obstruction, (fictitious lists of candidates, amounting to many hundreds, having been given in, nearly all in the handwriting of one person,) in any future election the returning officer's expenses would be covered by the outlay of 200 *l.*

In connexion with this important subject, we now beg leave to say, that it was partly with a view to facilitate the management of elections, that in the Bill placed in your Lordship's hands for the purpose of being submitted to the consideration of Parliament, we inserted a clause enabling us to divide parishes into wards, for the purpose of electing their Boards of Guardians. As we think that the well working of the new system in parishes too large and populous to be conveniently united with others, will be materially influenced by the decision of Parliament on this point, we are anxious to set forth the reasons which have induced us to think that the system of electing representatives *en masse*, is defective as compared with the principle of divisional elections.

It has, we think, been correctly stated, that many persons will take the trouble to ascertain the qualifications of one or two candidates, but not of 20 or 30 : and though it may be said that to divide and subdivide a body of electors, is only a contrivance for causing a proportion of the representatives of a given district to be elected by a minority of the inhabitants instead of a majority, still experience proves the very reverse to be the result ; it is found practically that when a numerous constituency are called upon to elect from 20 to 30, or perhaps a greater number of Guardians or Vestrymen, the individuals chosen are generally the mere nominees of some local party ; two lists are put forth, and the electors vote, not from their knowledge of the individual candidates, but from a disposition to believe that the candidates proposed by the party they may favour is better than the list proposed by the other party. Thus the majority of the electors who perhaps, if placed in a position to act for themselves, would not choose their representatives from the extremes of either side, are compelled to identify themselves with one of two parties, and to refrain from a deliberate and discriminating exercise of their franchise.

There is a tendency, too, in the list system to degenerate into a system of self-election ; the members by the effect of combination frequently having the power of returning one another, until something occurs of sufficient importance to excite the electors to exclude them altogether.

The necessary result of a divisional election would be to secure some mixture and fusion of parties and interests, and the conflicts for the exclusive possession of the power arising from the distribution of the parish funds would in great measure be put an end to.

We have taken some pains to analyze the detailed effect of the system of voting provided for by the Poor Law Amendment Act ; and we refer your Lordship to a table (inserted in the Appendix) which will be found to exhibit a very clear view of the results in the metropolitan parishes.

Appendix (D.) No. 12.

We have now closed what we think it necessary to say respecting the Metropolitan district ; and it remains for us to request your Lordship's attention to certain points connected with the general operation of the Act, which are too important in their character to be passed by without notice. In our last annual Report we stated our reasons for believing that the apparent amount of surplus labour was unreal and factitious ; and, consequently, that the permanent domiciliation in a workhouse of any large number of agricultural labourers, was the result we least of all contemplated. In the case of any real surplus being found to exist, we announced our intention of endeavouring to provide for it, either by emigration to some of our colonies, or by migration to some home district, in which an effective demand for labour might be found to prevail. In conformity with the intention thus expressed, we have thought it necessary to enable many parishes in the south-eastern districts of England, particularly in Norfolk, Suffolk, Sussex and parts of Wiltshire, where a redundancy of labourers was most complained of, to raise the necessary funds for the conveyance of numerous emigrants, who have proceeded chiefly to Toronto in Upper Canada. In this matter, however, we have acted only in compliance with the wishes of the parishioners ; we have taken no steps to encourage or promote this costly method of relief.

We

We have exerted ourselves more directly, however, in encouraging the migration of paupers to the manufacturing districts. Some of the individuals who have gone in search of employment, having been inured from their childhood to parish pay, and the reckless loitering life which an habitual dependence on it invariably gives rise to, have failed to acquire regular and industrious habits, and have returned to their former homes; but it is satisfactory to us to be able to state that our efforts have, on the whole, been attended with success. Mr. Muggeridge's Report, which will be found in the Appendix, contains many interesting details illustrating the situation, condition, and feeling of the persons whose condition in life has undergone such a rapid and unlooked for change. We particularly request your Lordship's attention to a tabular form which exhibits in one view the results of the change, as it has borne upon 100 families of migrants.

Appendix (B.) No. 20.

There are no clauses in the Act which, in comparison with their importance, have occasioned so little correspondence with the office as those which relate to bastardy. We occasionally receive letters containing inquiries as to the mode of relieving bastards born before the passing of the Act. More frequently we receive complaints that the expense which a parish is put to by applying to the quarter-sessions for an order of affiliation, is so great, that it is not worth while to incur it. To these statements we can only reply, that we believe this to be the result which the Legislature intended to produce.

We beg to lay before your Lordship the following extracts from some of the communications which we have received on this subject:—

The Reverend Thomas Pitman, minister of Eastbourne, says, "Among the labouring classes, there is a decided and progressive alteration; even the farmers themselves have observed to me, that there is in the general conduct of the agricultural labourers a civility of manner and attention to their masters' wishes, which of late years has been little perceptible. Perhaps the most marked difference in the lower orders observable by us as clergymen, is the almost total cessation of early and improvident marriages. I should not forget also to mention, that as far as I can form a judgment there is also a decided improvement in the marriages that do take place. The altar is not now, as heretofore, disgraced by the appearance of a woman to take upon her the solemn obligation of matrimony in the last stage of pregnancy: a fact which, I think, goes far to show that the morals of the people are undergoing a change for the better, and promises that ere long we may hope for all that domestic happiness among our poorer neighbours, which results from a match of pure affection, in the place of all that wretchedness, discord and misery which are the too sure produce of a marriage commenced in sin, and fostered only by a hope of procuring a means from the parish of carrying on from time to time sinful indulgences."

Mr. Hawley's Report, App. (B.) No. 3.

Rev. John Austen, Minister of Pulborough, states that "we now begin to look for moral and religious improvement, as the hard-working men engaged in husbandry are become civil and attentive to their masters. Only two marriages have been solemnized since December last, the yearly average being 15; and only one bastard has been christened between July 12th, 1835, and May 17th, 1836. (The population of this parish is 1,979, according to the census of 1831.)"

Ibid.

We are at all times ready to affirm our opinion that the recommendations of the Commissioners of Poor Law Inquiry, as to the Bastardy Laws, were founded on just views and sound policy; and it is satisfactory to us to observe, that the practice which was at one time almost universal, of dealing with the mothers of bastard children differently from other paupers, is rapidly giving way; and the sounder course of giving them relief only according to the measure and character of their wants is more generally adopted.

It is not as yet commonly known, that when a parish is included in a Union, the law requires that the application for an order of affiliation must be made by the direction of the Board of Guardians, and not, as heretofore, at the instigation of the parish officers. We entertain a confident expectation that Guardians will soon see that the workhouse is the proper place for the mothers of bastard children, who fail to support their own offspring.

The information which we have received on the subject of the clauses in the new Act, with relation to bastardy, is confirmatory of the facts and conclusions

stated upon the subject in our last annual Report. From the returns which we have received, it appears that the whole number of bastards chargeable to the parishes of England and Wales was, in the year 1835 - - - 71,298

The number chargeable in the year 1836, was - - - - 61,826

Being a decrease of - - - - - - - 9,472

Or of 13 per cent.

But the progressive operation of the Bill appears in the numbers affiliated during the two years, which numbers were,

In 1835 - - - - - -	12,381
In 1836 - - - - - -	7,686
Being a decrease of - -	4,695

Or of 38 per cent.

We endeavoured to obtain an account of the numbers born during those years chiefly, as shown in the baptismal registers; but our respondents declare that these returns are extremely imperfect, and are so much at variance with other testimony, that no reliance can be placed upon them for accuracy. In some parishes very many of the bastard children are never baptized; and in many other parishes, where they have not been accustomed to baptize them before the passing of the Act, children have been baptized subsequently, in consequence of the fact of a woman being known to have had a bastard not rendering her liable to the interference of the parish officers, where she does not claim relief.

The evidence of midwives and parish officers and other witnesses, speaking upon their own knowledge of their respective parishes, would prove that the diminution of the number of births was considerable.

The number returned as born in the year 1835 was 17,036; and in the year ended 25th March 1836 was 17,578. This variation between the two years is attributed to the more full registration in the last year.

According to the Population Returns, the number of bastards born in the year 1831 was 20,039, which, if allowance were made for the increase of population since that year, would show a decrease of between 4,000 and 5,000 born in the last year.

We have already stated, that the abuses of the pauper system, though prevailing to a greater or less extent wherever the Act of the 43d Elizabeth was in operation, varied in their character and degree in different parts of the country. In the western part of England and in Wales, where the labour rate and the roundsman systems were unknown, the evils and abuses of the compulsory binding of parish apprentices, and the payment of cottage rents, were found to be extremely prevalent. Mr. Head, in his report on Herefordshire, observes, that "the practice of giving relief by payment of rents, besides its other injurious consequences, tends to obliterate all distinction between the pauper and the independent labourer. To such an extent," he says, "has this result been produced in Herefordshire, that he has found it difficult to convince the parish officers that the persons for whom rent is paid are in fact paupers; the universal idea appears to have been, that the parish is bound to find a house for every applicant.

Appendix (B.) No. 14.

"In other districts some attempt has been usually made to conceal the object of such payments. The word 'rent' has not appeared in the parish books; but in Herefordshire, as there is no consciousness of the evils of the system, so there has been no attempt at concealment; and rents, as a separate item, to a large amount, usually occupy a conspicuous place in the pages of the overseers' accounts. It has followed, from this practice, that the owner of cottages, who perhaps in vestry votes himself his own rent out of the rates, is not compelled to moderate his claims by the ability of the cottage occupant. His receipts are higher in amount, and at the same time more secure, than those of any other owner; his property constantly escapes rating; and he is enabled to give his men lower wages on account of their relief from parochial funds. In the meantime, the really industrious labourer, who pays the rent of his own cottage, and relies on his own exertions, is saddled with a higher sum from the influence which the practice has exercised on the rents of the whole district."

Mr. Head also points out, that "the money expenditure in rent by no means represents the whole amount of relief given in this form. A great proportion of the parishes possess cottages of their own, which they suffer to be occupied rent free. The parish of All Saints, Hereford, owns, among other property, five houses,

houses, left to the poor by a Mr. Treherne in 1683. In one of these has resided, rent free, for 14 years, a man who keeps a grocer's and general shop, and whose mother occupied it before him. In the district now included in the Bromyard Union, the worth of the parish property, as returned by the officers themselves, exceeds 4,000*l.* In the Ledbury Union it is still higher; and I may safely assert, that their valuation is far below the truth. I need not dwell on the benefits which these districts would experience, if this property, now devoted to the creation of pauperism, were invested in an efficient workhouse, and thus caused to assume the form of a real test of indigence, instead of remaining as an encouragement to dependence on parish funds.

"The instances are innumerable in which parishes have, by their own negligence, lost property of this description, or have been involved in most expensive lawsuits, suffering paupers to occupy it without acknowledgment for a long series of years."

It is needless for us, with respect to this form of relief, to multiply examples, or to define the extent of its operation; it will perhaps be sufficient for us to assure your Lordship, that when workhouses are provided, and the provisions of the Act duly enforced, the whole of this evil will be removed.

We proceed to notice the other form of pauperism to which we have alluded, namely, the compulsory binding of parish apprentices. In no part of England has this system been acted upon to a greater extent than in Devonshire; and its evil effects have in that county been very fully developed. They exhibit themselves in the extreme injustice and inequality of the burthen, in the influence which is produced on the character and conduct of the parents, whose children are the objects of the proceeding, on the minds of the children themselves, and on the individuals who are compelled, generally much against their will, to receive them as apprentices.

In the arrangement for allotting the apprentices, and determining to what rate-payers they shall from time to time be bound, almost as many different modes are said, by Mr. Gilbert, to exist in Devon as there are parishes. In some the plan is, that persons rated on property of the value of 50*l.*, or some other given sum, shall take an apprentice for every such sum, and that all who are rated below that sum shall contribute to the maintenance of the apprentice, by paying the master a sum in proportion to the amount of their respective properties. Under these arrangements, it often happens that a single person has several apprentices fixed upon him, for whom he has no use, and for whom in his house he has no room. In such a case as this, the master is either obliged to get rid of the burthen at a great expense, or to retain the apprentice, greatly to his own inconvenience, and to the injury of the child. Appendix (B.) No. 9.

The evils, however, which we are attempting to describe, have not been confined to one county. Mr. Head has supplied us with the following letter from a gentleman, a rate-payer in a large parish in Herefordshire, which illustrates this subject: Appendix (B.) No. 14.

"My attention was first called to the system of apprenticing, on the establishment of the Select Vestry in the parish, in the year 1820. On inquiry, I found the officers were in the habit of selecting the children to be put out, and then making out a list of parishioners liable to take them, invariably inserting therein the names of all new comers, and passing over many who had been resident for years, and who held extensive occupations in the parish. Those who were likely to object to an apprentice generally were omitted; and those whom it would have been too barefaced to have passed over, and who were in the secret, attended, and chose themselves those children who were most desirable from their state of health and respectability of parentage. The rest were saddled upon those who did not know better, or who had not courage to resist the imposition. If the master accepted the apprentice, he received with him, from the parish, 1*l.*, otherwise he paid a fine of 10*l.* to the officers, which was applied in aid of the poor-rate, and the child was fixed on some other parishioner. It happened to me to remonstrate against the system altogether, and more particularly against the partial manner in which it was executed; and I remember getting this reply from two brother vestrymen: 'Is your name on the list? if not, what reason have you to complain?'"

The varied mischiefs which result from this compulsory service are so accurately and concisely summed up, in a letter from Mr. Veale, an *ex officio* Guardian of the Okehampton Union, that we think it our duty to insert it here. Mr. Gilbert's Rep. Appx. (B.) No. 9.

"I will

"I will mention a few objections against the compulsory system of apprenticeship which have struck me:

"1. It is a partial burthen, as only the more opulent rate-payers are compelled to take apprentices, or pay the fine on refusal.

"2. Binding is considered a degradation both to parents and children.

"3. If parents do not approve of the master or mistress to whom their child is bound, they often excite the child to disobedience, in order to get the indenture cancelled.

"4. Apprentices are often made the slaves of the whole household, being obliged to do the bidding of servants as well as masters: their education is often neglected, and they are seldom sent to any place of worship.

"5. Female apprentices are often sent into the fields to take the proper employment of men and boys, and are not trained to household work, or to knit and sew; this is a great disadvantage to them, as they often marry as soon as they are out of their apprenticeship.

"6. Apprentices having their clothes and other necessaries provided for them by their masters and mistresses, are very unfit when married to lay out money economically for the provision of themselves and families. Is this not a reason why so many young married apprentices, &c. have sought assistance from the parish officer?"

We beg leave also to draw your Lordship's attention to a very full and clear developement of the apprentice system, as it has prevailed in the county of Suffolk under the special provisions of local Acts of Parliament, by which the old poor law incorporations were formed and governed in that county, which will be found in the Report of our Assistant Commissioner, Dr. Kay.

Appendix (B.) No. 1.

With reference to the subject of apprenticeship, we do not fail to bear in mind the important duty which has by the Poor Law Amendment Act been committed to us; namely, that of forming rules for its regulation. We have as yet abstained from issuing any such regulations, because, although the evils which result from the system are very obvious, it is difficult to define the precise mode by which they can be remedied. We believe that this form of pauperism will necessarily be diminished by the operation of the new system: the number of persons who maintain themselves without assistance from the poor rate is in all directions rapidly increasing; and it is evident, we think, that none but the children of actual paupers can lawfully be bound out as apprentices by the parish. It is in fact a form of relief; and all relief to a child is by the law deemed relief to the parent. The objects, therefore, of these compulsory bindings must soon become so limited in point of number, that the difficulty of devising proper regulations will be much diminished.

We think it is incumbent upon us again to allude to the arrangements respecting medical relief, which have so often been the subject of animadversion and complaint, in communications addressed to your Lordship by different members of the medical profession.

It has been so perseveringly maintained that the medical relief to the poor has been inadequately provided for, and that a course has been pursued by us injurious to the medical profession, that we think it necessary to re-affirm the statement which we have made whenever we have had a fit opportunity for doing so: that it has been our wish and intention to provide adequately for that important branch of pauper relief; and that in so doing we have never sought to disturb or displace the medical practitioners in their respective districts. Whenever this has been done (and the introduction of other individuals from a distance has occurred in but a very few instances), the Guardians have been forced to adopt that course by the inadmissible demands which have been made upon them by the gentlemen who now complain of their practice having been interfered with.

We wish indeed that it was possible for us within the limits of this Report to exhibit to your Lordship a full and complete representation of all that has been done as to this branch of our duties; and we think we should be able clearly to demonstrate that the complaints of the medical profession have no foundation.

In the rules and regulations issued for the direction of Boards of Guardians, two only have reference to the appointment of medical officers and the supply of medical relief: they are as follows:

"The Guardians shall, from such period as they may think proper, contract with

with some competent person or persons duly licensed to practice as a medical man or medical men, to be the medical officer or officers of the Union, and to attend duly and punctually upon all paupers falling sick within the limits of the Union, either in the workhouse or otherwise, and to supply such sick paupers with all necessary medicines and appliances whatsoever; but such contract may, if the Guardians think proper, contain a clause, by which the said medical officer shall engage to attend, at a fair and reasonable charge per head, to be named in such contract, on all persons not belonging to any parish or place comprised in the said Union, whom by law any such parish or place may be bound to relieve under suspended orders of removal.

" The medical officer shall give all necessary directions as to the diet, classification and treatment of sick and lunatic paupers, and shall provide the requisite medicines."

We have inserted these rules here, that an opportunity may be afforded of forming an opinion upon them, and we certainly did not anticipate the objections they have given rise to. No sooner, however, was any part of the country formed into Union, than the propriety of altering the arrangements established for the purposes of medical relief in the separate parishes, and of resorting to a new and more combined distribution, became apparent. The effecting of this object caused some disturbance to the medical practitioners, extending the practice of some, whilst it curtailed that of others. The division into districts has given rise to much complaint. The districts are represented by the medical practitioners as being generally too large, and as otherwise inconvenient. These districts, however, have been deliberately formed by the respective Boards of Guardians, who from their local knowledge must be considered to be the most competent judges on the subject; and we have reason to believe that in almost every instance the best arrangement was adopted.

Another ground of complaint is, that the medical gentlemen have, by the Guardians of some Unions, been called upon to make known by the way of tender the amount of payment for which they would undertake to supply medical attendance and the requisite medicines, in any district which the Guardians might be desirous of providing for. Although this mode of proceeding is not rendered imperative by anything contained in our rules, there is no doubt that the Guardians have generally resorted to it, and have by us, through our Assistant Commissioners, been advised to do so; but it was never supposed that such a course was derogatory to the character of the profession. We are ready to admit that the principle of competition, though it is strictly and to the fullest extent applicable to the supply of drugs and many other articles used by the medical practitioners, is yet capable of only a modified application when brought to bear upon the acquired skill and knowledge, and other personal qualifications, the possession of which must and ought so materially to influence the Guardians in the selection they shall make from amongst the medical candidates; and in all our operations this limitation of the principle of competition has been recognised and acted upon; the Guardians having never been required to accept the lowest tender, and having in fact in very many instances been induced to set it aside solely with reference to the considerations of character and personal qualifications to which we have alluded.

We think it is evident that, situated as the Guardians are on the formation of new Unions, it is only by resorting to open tender that they can ascertain, with anything like an approach to correctness, the sum which it may be right to pay for the medical relief of a district. The elements upon which that calculation must be founded are in themselves obscure, and are utterly unknown to the persons who are selected for the office of Guardian. The medical practitioners themselves cannot fail to be possessed individually of the knowledge necessary for making the calculation; and in asking them to bring it forward in the way of tender, nothing more was meant than that they themselves should in the first instance suggest the amount of the reward which in their view their services might entitle them to: thus, in truth, constituting the medical practitioners, and not the Board of Guardians, the judges of the fitting amount of remuneration for their attendance, a proceeding that surely ought not to operate painfully upon the feelings of the medical profession, as it has been represented to do.

We shall forbear from enlarging upon, though it is our duty to notice the differences of opinion which appear to prevail as to who may be held, in the words of the Act, to be " duly licensed to practise as a medical man." The

apothecaries have continued strongly to contend, that we should exclude all persons who are not duly authorized by law to practise as apothecaries. To this we have answered, that as far as we are concerned we do not exclude any person whom the Guardians may prefer, although he may only be authorized to practise as a physician or a surgeon; how far a member of either of these branches of the profession would render himself liable to penalties by acting as a medical officer in a Union, is a question of law which we held it to be no part of our duty to determine.

In considering this branch of relief, it is important to observe that one of the foregoing rules directs that the contracts entered into by the Guardians shall be for the attendance and supply of sick paupers. These words have been held to involve a far greater change in the administration of medical relief than could have been anticipated. Under the old system the parish officers had entered into general contracts for the supply of the sick poor; and as the liability of the contractor was indefinite, there was a disposition on the part of the parochial authorities to grant orders for medical assistance without scruple, and without reference to the circumstances of the applicants, because each additional case was attended with no additional expense to the parish. The medical man was disposed in the long run to acquiesce in this apparently unfair advantage which was taken of his contract; the difficulty of obtaining the discharge of medical bills from the poorer class of customers made him somewhat indifferent to the loss of any private practice amongst this class of persons; and there was frequently a risk, that, if the patient were not attended on the parish account, but obliged to pay for himself, he might resort to another medical practitioner rather than to the parish contractor. It was found, therefore, that in the long run the medical man had an interest in placing the parish between himself and as large a class of such patients as we have been describing as possible. In the pauperised districts the whole mass of the labouring population might be deemed medical paupers; no effort was made to restrain an undue reliance on gratuitous aid; and in some districts any of the labourers who thought fit to apply for the assistance of the parochial surgeon, did so by calling at his house and requiring his services with as little hesitation as if they had intended to reward him for his professional skill and care.

It is evident that the immediate effect of the rule above recited was to confine the administration of medical relief to such persons as could properly be deemed paupers. The relieving officer is directed "as soon as he shall have received notice of the sickness of, or of any injury received by any pauper in any of the parishes or places for which he shall be appointed to act, to notify the fact to the medical officer." It has been a question therefore, who are to be deemed paupers? and whether the relieving officer is at liberty to consider any person a pauper who is not already in receipt of relief. It is evident, we think, that the persons who are to receive relief by medicine under the Union contract cannot be predetermined, so as to be arranged into a class; and that the persons who are to receive this form of relief can only be decided on by an especial exercise of discretion, which under ordinary circumstances, and when time will allow of it, must take place on an examination into the facts of the case by the Board of Guardians. Sickness may in itself frequently be a cause of destitution, and justify an order for relief; it will often be found necessary to extend it to those who when in health are able to maintain themselves and their families; but in case of sudden and unforeseen emergency, such relief may at once be ordered by Justices of the Peace, Churchwardens or Overseers, as well as by Guardians and Relieving Officers.

We have thought it our duty to seek for information as to the effect of the arrangements for providing medical relief in each Union. For that purpose we transmitted to the several Boards of Guardians a series of questions calculated to elicit the information we sought; and we are now able to lay before your Lordship in the Appendix the results of these queries; and we think they cannot fail to remove any apprehensions which may have existed as to the efficacy of the system for providing medical relief. It must however be borne in mind that the medical relief now provided in the Unions established under the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act is no longer applicable, as heretofore, to the whole labouring population; and that by confining its administration to such persons only as are really destitute of the means of providing it for themselves, a wide change has been effected in this branch of relief. This, amongst

Appendix (C.) No. 3.

amongst other reasons, has induced us to use special exertions to provide against any injurious effects from the change. The tendency of the new system is to convert paupers into independent labourers; and when once they have won that position for themselves, no effort should be spared to enable them to maintain it. It is comparatively not difficult for them, when stimulated to the exertion of prudence and forethought by being thrown on their own resources, to provide the necessary articles of food and clothing which are the objects of daily use. Rent, too, may be provided for by payments at short intervals; but the approach of sickness is not foreseen. Hope will suggest that it may be altogether escaped, and its duration, and the cost of the necessary remedies, cannot well, even by the most cautious, be correctly estimated. It is hardly to be expected, therefore, that a labourer will, without some prompting and assistance, provide against this contingency. The medical officer of the Union may still be applied to, and it is well known that this form of relief is accepted with less repugnance than any other, though it operates as an easy introduction to further applications on less pressing emergencies. We have endeavoured, therefore, to place within reach of the labourer the means of maintaining his independence, and averting from himself and his family the degradation of a return to pauperism, as well during sickness as during health. This we feel persuaded may effectually be accomplished by the establishment of "independent sick clubs."

It is found practically that for a regular annual payment from each of the labouring families in a district, not exceeding in amount what a labourer can spare from his wages, (an amount which voluntary kindness and charity will perhaps often supply,) a medical man residing in the district will undertake to attend on the labourer and his family during sickness whenever it may occur. An institution founded on this principle, supplies in detail the means of providing, as heretofore, medical aid by contract, with this difference, that the money is in the one case paid voluntarily by the person who seeks for the advantage, while in the other it is taken compulsorily from the pockets of the rate-payers.

After obtaining all the information we could get together, as to the best mode of managing these institutions, we issued a circular, a copy of which will be found in the Appendix, calling upon members of Boards of Guardians to exert themselves in their respective districts, with a view to the introduction of independent sick clubs. This appeal has not been made in vain; and we have the satisfaction to learn that they are now being established very generally in many parts of the country. Appendix (A.) No. 3.

Of the beneficial effect of these institutions, an exemplification is contained in the following extract from a communication on the subject:

"One of the surgeons residing in this Union, who has established medical clubs (not being a district surgeon) in this division of the Union, states, that the system of the medical clubs works well for the profession, and very beneficially for the poor, assuring me, that not only are the poorer classes much better attended, but in every case much more contented with the attendance they have (this is an inevitable consequence of parties being independent of each other), and that he, as a surgeon, is better paid now by the voluntary subscriptions to his club, than he was by the parochial salaries before the establishment of the Unions."—[*C. Rodwell*, Alderton, August 9.]

We stated in our last Report that we had prepared for the new Unions, and the parishes comprehended in them, an uniform system of accounts, with instructions for keeping and auditing them. These forms of account on the whole fully answered our expectations, and as a comprehensive system adapted for use throughout the whole kingdom, were decidedly superior to anything which had been previously devised. In the progress of working our Unions, however, some improvements have been suggested in certain of the forms, as well as in the division of the duties of the several officers of the Union, by whom the accounts were respectively to be kept; and after extensive inquiry and correspondence, and much careful consideration, and it may be added, much labour also, we have introduced such alterations in the details as appeared to be desirable, the system itself and the principle on which it is founded remaining untouched by these changes, although its working will be materially facilitated thereby. The new forms, with instructions and examples, have been issued to all the newly established Appendix (A.) No. 13.

established and to most of the older Unions, and arrangements have been made to prevent any material expense to the latter by the change now introduced.

We look forward with much confidence to the orderly and efficient working of the system of Union and parochial accounts as now established; and have reason to believe that no further alterations in the forms will be necessary, ample provision being made in them for bringing out, in a clear and distinct manner, all the results of interest or importance connected with poor law administration, and with the habits, character, and position of our pauper population; so that the returns periodically called for, and which have hitherto been made in a very vague, inaccurate and unsatisfactory manner, will hereafter be attainable with comparative ease, and in forms more consonant with the present advanced state of statistical science.

The 46th Section of the Act provides, that we should direct the appointment of Auditors, to check the accounts of the respective parishes and unions. The functions of these officers are of the most important character, and it daily becomes more and more evident to us, that when the duty of arranging the Unions and introducing the rules and regulations is completed, it will be by the authority and superintendence of the persons executing the duties of Auditors, that the new system of Poor Law administration will be mainly upheld. For the instruction and guidance of the Auditors, and also of the Overseers and others by whom the monies raised for the relief of the poor are levied and expended, we have prepared and circulated certain explanations as to the state of the existing law in this respect. Copies of these instructions will be found in the Appendix.

Appendix (A.) Nos. 5, 6.

The principle which it was obviously necessary to establish was, that no money should be allowed to be expended from the poor-rate, excepting such as was directly applied to the relief of the poor, or was otherwise expressly authorized by statute. It soon appeared, however, that a fund so copiously supplied, and so imperfectly checked and controlled, as that heretofore raised by the poor-rates, had been habitually burthened with many charges which no statutory enactment warranted. Of these payments, none have given rise to more frequent inquiry than the payments for attendance on coroners' inquests. It appears to have been customary to pay out of the poor-rates for the use of the room in which an inquest might be held, for the attendance of the medical men to be examined as witnesses, and for inspecting the bodies of deceased persons; the expenses also of jurymen, constables and others; and this equally, whether the inquest was on the body of a pauper or not. It appears also to have been a common practice to bind over the overseers of the poor to prosecute on behalf of the parish, and to saddle them, as public officers, with such portion of the expenses of the prosecution as the county magistrates refused to allow.

On investigation into this subject, however, it appeared to be the opinion of the law officers of the Crown, that the payment of a constable of his expenses incurred in giving notice of a death to the coroner, was the only charge which could be lawfully defrayed out of the poor-rate.

Numberless questions have in like manner arisen respecting the burial of paupers, and the fees payable on such occasions. On these points the law is very obscure. Neither the statute of the 43d of Elizabeth, nor any other which we know of, has provided for the burial of paupers; the practice of burying them at the expense of the parish, seems to have resulted from necessity; but when the question is asked, on what parties is the burthen ultimately to fall, it is difficult, as the law stands, to give a satisfactory answer. If a pauper, not residing in his parish, should be in the habit of receiving weekly relief, he would not necessarily, in case of his death, be buried at the expense of the parish to which he belonged. As the parish in which the pauper might die could not, after that event, relieve itself by an order of removal, the necessity which is created of providing for the funeral would, and usually does, fall on the parish in which the death might take place. It will readily be seen, that this question became of importance, when, on the formation of a Union, the paupers of many parishes would be accumulated in the workhouse in one parish; and we have found it necessary specially to direct, that a pauper dying in a Union workhouse, shall be buried at the expense of the parish to which he belonged.

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The poor-rate returns, which it has been the practice of late years to call for and lay before Parliament, were intermitted in 1835, and early in the present year, the duty of obtaining and preparing the returns for the two years 1835 and 1836, instead of being performed as heretofore by the officers of The House of Commons, was required to be discharged by us. We notice this, not as objecting to the labour which it has imposed upon us, but for the purpose of pointing out to your Lordship that it has brought a considerable and unforeseen expense upon the department.

In our first Report we stated that we had prepared, with professional aid, plans for the construction of workhouses of different sizes, capable of accommodating from 100 to 500 paupers. These plans have been found to be effective, and have been very generally adopted. Various modifications of them have also been devised by different architects and Boards of Guardians, and in several instances plans altogether differing from these have been acted upon; for we have not deemed it expedient to prescribe our own plans for general adoption, neither have we withheld our sanction from any plans presented for our approval py Boards of Guardians, provided only that they comprised the essentials for carrying our workhouse regulations into effect.

It is right to state, however, after an enlarged experience, that the plans which we prepared and circulated for general information, are, in our judgment, on the whole, superior, both as regards cheapness and completeness of arrangement, to any of the other numerous plans which have come under our notice.

These plans were designed for use in the pauperized districts, where a more complete and extensive machinery was necessary, in order to ensure a successful result in the struggle about to commence against pauperism. In the less pauperized districts, a less expensive and less powerful machinery will be required, and to meet this change of circumstances we have prepared plans of a workhouse for 200 paupers, on a reduced scale of expenditure and arrangement, but which we believe will be found fully to answer all the desired objects in the less pauperized districts. These plans, marked (K.), are given in the Appendix. Appendix (A.) No. 15.

We have inserted in the Appendix a list of the workhouses which, up to the date of this Report, we have ordered to be built in various Unions, together with the probable or actual expense of each of such workhouses. We propose in our Report of next year, by which time most of the buildings necessary for carrying the Act into execution will be completed, to enter more fully into this subject. Appendix (D.) No. 11.

We have always been sensible of the importance of establishing a fixed dietary in the several workhouses, but it appeared to us that the details of such dietary ought not to be uniform throughout the country, but rather that they should be governed by the ordinary mode of living in the district in which each particular workhouse might happen to be situated; adopting as a principle, that the workhouse dietary should in no case be superior to the ordinary mode of living of the labouring classes in the neighbourhood.

Acting upon this principle, and being sensible of the importance of proceeding under the sanction of actual experience in a matter so open to cavil and objection as the fixing of a scale of diet for the poor, we instituted inquiries through our Assistant Commissioners in the several districts, and obtained dietaries then actually in use in workhouses in different parts of the country, and which had been proved to be sufficient for the purpose. From these dietaries we selected six, of a character sufficiently varied to meet almost every variety of circumstances, and circulated them among the Unions, with a letter pointing out the principle which should govern the Guardians in their selection of that particular dietary most suitable to the circumstances of their Union. This circular, with the six dietaries, is given in the Appendix; and we are happy to say that it has been productive of very satisfactory results. Appendix (A.) No. 7.

We trust that we have succeeded in laying before your Lordship such explanations of the more prominent points of our proceedings as will render them intelligible. And we now proceed to explain the effects which have been produced by the operation of the new law upon the manners, comfort and general condition of the labouring classes, and as it has affected the rate-payers.

With respect to the first, and, as we think, by far the most important and

interesting branch of the subject, the accounts are from all quarters alike gratifying and conclusive. We do not undertake to deny that cases of individual suffering may have occurred. We know of no state of human society which ever did, or, as we believe, ever can exist, in which such cases may not occur. We have abundant proof that they did occur far more frequently under the old system of Poor Law Administration, than under that which we have been commissioned to establish; and we think that those persons are in error who suppose that, because an alleged case of distress and suffering is brought forward, it is to be taken as a conclusive argument against the policy of the new system. Many such complaints have reached us; almost all of them on inquiry have proved to be greatly exaggerated, or else utterly destitute of foundation. Still we do not deny that disease, accident, ignorance or neglect may have occasioned suffering which could not in all possible cases have been instantly provided for; but we assert that such cases will be far less frequent than heretofore. The guardians, relieving officers and medical officers are active, watchful and efficient; and in addition to these (which may be partly considered as newly created powers), the powers of the magistrates and overseers of the poor, as to all cases of sudden and real emergency, remain in operation as heretofore. It is from ignorance and misapprehension as to the real nature of the change which is taking place, that doubts and distrust as to its tendency are found still to prevail in some instances. That these doubts and misapprehensions will soon be dispelled we cannot but believe. That the public is rapidly acquiring a correct view of the change which has taken place among the labouring classes, we think we shall be able to demonstrate; and for this purpose we shall extract from some of the numerous letters which have been addressed to our Assistant Commissioners, passages which will carry with them a weight of authority which no statement of ours could equally impart.

Mr. Stevens's Report, Appendix (B.) No. 5.

"Since the introduction of the new system of Poor Laws, a most beneficial change has taken place in our parish. Before, we had a heavy surplus population: this has nearly disappeared; the labourers will not accept relief in the workhouse, and will strain every nerve to keep out. There is a greater difference between the condition of the good and bad labourers than there used to be: the good men are always sure to be in work, the bad men are not so regularly employed; the single and married men are now upon the same footing, as far as relief is concerned, and therefore there is no inducement to marry early; before, there was, because relief was given according to the number of the family. Generally the characters of the labourers are greatly improved. I think the masters too are more considerate to the men than they used to be; they will now take care to keep good labourers when they have got them. There is no measure, I think, which has done so much good in so short a time: we now see all the men employed, where formerly there were none. Our saving has been very great; but I consider the improvement of the people a greater general advantage than the reduction of the poor-rates."—[Mr. *Allnutt* of Sutton Courtney, Abingdon Union.]

Colonel A'Court's Report, App. (B.) No. 7.

"The old and infirm are at the same time equally as well taken care of as under the previous system. But, in addition to the advantages which it has conferred upon the poor, it has been equally advantageous to the moral feeling of those who are more fortunately circumstanced. I hear from all quarters that the current of private charity never ran so clear and unobstructed. I have heard many of the farmers say, that they have now a pleasure in employing men who apply civilly for work, and who, when they are employed, are anxious to please their masters, a conduct directly the reverse of the rude and insolent manner in which work was formerly demanded as a right."—[Rev. *C. Dodson*, Chairman of the Andover Union.]

Ibid.

"As to the moral improvement of the labouring classes. This is chiefly perceptible in the relations of master and servant. All the labourers are now anxious to obtain permanent employment, and are therefore more studious than formerly to please their masters by respectful and diligent conduct; carelessness as to whether they had work or not is already vanished."—[Colonel *Vilett*, Chairman of the Highworth and Swindon Union.]

Mr. Tufnell's Rep. Appx. (B.) No. 2.

"I think I shall not be saying too much, when I inform you that the result of the introduction of the new Poor Law in this neighbourhood has been productive of a greater degree of moral as well as pecuniary benefit than the most sanguine among us anticipated; in fact, such is the judgment and opinion of those who

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in the first instance evinced the greatest hostility to the measure."—[Mr. *Love*, Chairman of the Sevenoaks Union.]

Col. A'Court's Report, Appendix (B.) No. 7.

" The men are more civil and obliging, more anxious to keep their places, and less inclined to improvidence and intemperance, than they were before the Poor Law Bill came into operation. Almost all the able-bodied men have found employment during the past winter. The rates have been reduced pretty nearly one-half, compared with what they were four years ago."—[*N. Atherton*, esq., Chairman of Calne Union.]

Mr. Hall's Report, Appendix (B.) No. 17.

" There is a very general increase in the habits of industry among the labouring classes. Persons who never could be made to work before have become good labourers, and do not express any dissatisfaction with the measure. In most parishes the moral character of the poor is improving, there is a disposition to be more orderly and well-behaved. So far as I can judge, from the inquiries I have made from time to time, and from conversations with respectable farmers and others, who hold no offices, I may venture to say that the measure is working very satisfactorily; that the great body of the labouring poor throughout the Union have become reconciled to it, that the workhouse is held in great dread, that there is a greater disposition to seek for employment, and but very few complaints of misbehaviour, and that cases of bastardy are on the decline."—[*Langham Rokeby*, esq., Chairman of the Market Harborough Union.]

Mr. Hawley's Report, Appendix (B.) No. 3.

" The reason why in this parish we had under the old system from 50 to 60 labourers out of employment during the winter months, or in the gravel pits, or on the farmers on the billet system, and that under the new law we have had scarcely any, is, that now the labourers are thrown on their own resources, and have consequently been more diligent in seeking for work; this, coupled with the farmers' knowledge that they could no longer have their work done by parish men, and awaiting particular times, has caused the work to come more regularly into the market. Some few have got work out of the parish, but it has generally been found within."—[Mr. *Smith*, of Framfield, Uckfield Union.]

Ibid.

" Not only have we no men out of employment at this time (January 23), but judging from a circumstance which happened the other day, there appears to be an insufficiency of hands to perform the requisite labour. In the parish of Fletching, where I have property, I required the services of some labourers to cut a coppice; this is profitable employment; but so great was the scarcity of hands, that I was unable to obtain one, and this in a parish where last year there were from 60 to 70 men unemployed throughout the whole winter."—[*W. C. Mabbott*, esq., Uckfield, one of the magistrates for the county.]

Ibid.

" The surplus labourers in this parish used to be employed at digging stone in the forest for the turnpike roads, at a great loss to the parish, there being generally more hands than were required, with little or nothing to stimulate them. Under the new system many of the same men are emancipated from pauperism, and work at the same job as independent labourers."—[Mr. *R. Mannington*, of Maresfield.]

Ibid.

" The reasons why the labourers get employment better than they did before the new Poor Law came into operation are many, and many littles make a large amount. The labourer now being put upon his own resources, comes to ask his employers for work in a different way from what he formerly did. When he formerly came to him he would ask him in that off-handed manner that you knew he did not intend to do you justice if you set him to work; he would perhaps go to two or three in the parish in this way (and those two or three were, he thought, most unlikely to set him to work), then go to the parish officers for an order to go on the road, which was where he wanted to get, and make the parish officer pay him for his day going round the parish asking for work, and perhaps half the day at work in his own garden, or spending money at a beer-shop. Now he will come to you and say, " Do not you want somebody to do such and such a job? I shall be glad to do it for you;" and the employer, finding that he has not got half the rate to pay he formerly had, sets him to work, and the man going on better than he formerly did, induces his employer to keep him on. One instance I know of this in my next neighbour, a small farmer, employing one labourer formerly through the summer (excepting two living in his house), and turning him off the greater part of the winter. He one morning came to my house. I said to him, " Do you keep Farnes on to work for you this winter?" He said " Yes; I have set him to draining. He (Farnes) said he did not know what he should do if I turned

I turned him off; and I, finding that I had not half the poor-rate to pay I have had, thought I would keep him on." I have known many of our rate-payers send men to the surveyor to set them to work on a wet day, and tell them to come back again when it was fine; now if they turn them off on a wet day (if they are good workmen), I think perhaps they would not know where to find them on a fine one."—[Mr. *G. Wickens*, of Rotherfield.]

Mr. Hawley's Report, Appendix (B.) No. 3.

" We have not, so far as I am able to learn, one able-bodied man at present out of employ; there has been a hard struggle to persuade them to move; but those who have been for years idling on the roads, have at last gone out of the parish, and have found work at good wages."—[Rev. *J. Austen*, of Pulborough.]

Ibid.

" It may already be perceived that parents are more anxious to get their children into service than formerly, and encourage them to continue there: that boys and young men under 20 are now learning all sorts of husbandry work, being employed with their parents, and bringing their earnings to the common stock; that they are anxious to get, and to continue in such employment, and are aware that a good character is now of vital importance to them. The money earned in harvest and hop-picking was not last year dissipated as it often used to be; in short, the complaints, which are general by the keepers of public-houses and beer-shops, that it is the worst Bill ever passed for them, will bear out that assertion."—[Mr. *Ticehurst*, Clerk to the Battle Union.]

Mr. Stevens' Report, Appendix (B.) No. 5.

" I observe a marked difference in the condition of the labourers generally since the formation of this Union. The good labourers have been better off this year than the inferior (formerly it was otherwise), they have had constant work, and generally the preference in the work. The labourers of bad character have suffered; their employment has been uncertain, and they have been unwilling to accept relief in the workhouse. I consider that this will go far towards raising the character of the whole of our agricultural population. I find that the labourers are taking more pains with their work: they are becoming more skilful and industrious; they are very much more civil. We can now see a fault without an answer; formerly we could not. They are more anxious to procure employment, and particularly desirous to keep it when they have got it. It is not necessary now to look after the labourers. You can give your orders in the morning, and come home in the evening and find them executed."—[Mr. *J. Frampton*, Bradfield.]

Ibid.

" I think the new system has had the effect of making the labourer depend entirely on himself, and he will now seek work wherever it is to be had at best advantage. The labourers will in time be able to obtain better wages from their masters. I think the operation of the new system as regards bastardy has had considerable effect already."—[Mr. *G. Smith*, Bradfield.]

Ibid.

" Since the foundation of the Union good labourers have been better off than the inferior; it never used to be so; they are now obtaining better prices than the inferior labourers; the best men have had constant work through the winter. The inferior workmen and men of bad character have suffered; they have not obtained constant employment, and they have been unwilling to accept relief in the workhouse. The effect of this must be to raise the moral character of the whole of the agricultural population. The labourers are certainly more industrious and a very different race of people from what they were altogether, more obliging in manner, and very anxious to keep employment. The wages must rise; if we do not raise the wages we must lose all the good men; because under the new system they will go where they can make most advantageous terms. I asked a man, by name Hutchins, to work for me the other day; he had nothing to do. He said he could come, but wished to know how long the job was to last. I told him one or two days. He said, " Then I shall not come. I shall go and find some constant work somewhere."—[Mr. *Thomas Godrich*, farmer and tanner, in the parishes of Bradfield and Stanford.]

Ibid.

" As the labourers have improved, the masters have certainly become more considerate; and I think that whenever a man shows a disposition to exert himself, the master endeavours to meet it. This is much more the case now than it was. The children are now sent out into service very early, and removed from temptation of idleness. There have been fewer improvident marriages lately than there used to be; young people do not like to marry without a provision, now that the workhouse is the only resource."—[Mr. *Newton*, of Pangbourn, Bradfield Union.]

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" The whole agricultural population is improving now; parents push out their children early to help maintain the family; before they were kept at home to add one more for the pay table."—[Mr. *G. Godfrey*, Basildon.] Mr. Stevens' Report, Appendix (B.) No. 5.

" I have farmed in this parish for the last 10 years, and I find my labourers greatly improved since the Union. I have men working for me now who used to be always grumbling and insubordinate, and good for very little as labourers: now they are contented and trustworthy, and go whistling to their work as happy as birds. I am quite sure that the way to have good labourers is to keep them entirely from the parish. I think the labourers now are better than ever I remember them for the last 10 years."—[Mr. *Thomas Forshall*, Maisey-hampton, Cirencester Union.] Ibid.

The chairman of the Eastry Union says, " I am glad to perceive that the law is rising in estimation in the public opinion, and more particularly among the working classes themselves, and that the clouds of prejudices are quickly passing away, by the salutary benefits it has already manifested. For as far as it regards the real poor, and those who are objects of pity, their condition under the new workhouse regulations is improved, their diet, their comforts and accommodations are better; they are more robust and healthy." Mr. Tufnell's Report, Appendix (B.) No. 2.

The vice-chairman of the Eastry Union relates the following fact: " An extensive miller, a highly respectable person, stated to me some months since, that it had been long a practice with many of the labourers to sell their gleanings of wheat when their families had done leasing; the wheat being sold first in the quantities obtained by individual families to bakers, who disposed of it to the miller. My informant having an extensive connexion, purchased much of such gleaned wheat from the bakers with whom he deals, averaging as much as 25 to 27 quarters annually, during the preceding six or seven years. I think he stated having bought 35 quarters after the harvest of 1834. After the harvest of last year (1835) the quantity of wheat so purchased by him was only 18 bushels. He was at a loss to account for so great a diminution; and remarking his surprise thereat to a baker in one of the parishes of the Eastry Union (Ash), the latter replied that but little of the gleaned wheat of last harvest was sold; that the wives of the labourers had said, 'they kept their wheat now, as they could not go to their parish as formerly.'" Ibid.

Mr. *G. Pearse*, Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Woburn Union. —" A moral change for the better has been wrought in the character and conduct of this most useful class of men; a change perhaps not so extensive as might be wished, but productive of much and substantial benefit. Indications of good will are now observable in the tone and temper of the labourers towards their employers. Their behaviour is respectful; they are becoming more trustworthy; they are more alert in seeking work, and, having procured employment for themselves, are more careful to retain it. The article of husbandry labour has now acquired a real and intrinsic value. Plans of forecast and economy are more studiously pursued, and weekly wages are less wastefully expended. Where, under the old system of relief, a large surplus male population appeared to exist, these labourers at present are in some parishes fully employed, and in others greatly reduced in numbers."

Mr. *Robert Nixon*, grocer, Thame, a very respectable man, whose trade, from the situation of his shop, lies chiefly among the poor, says, " I do not sell, I think, quite so many goods as I did before the alteration in the law, but my trade is much more satisfactory; for I formerly trusted numbers of the poor on the faith of their parish pay, but they often deceived me; and having done so, did not return to deal with me; now they come with their money and buy that which they really require, and pay for it. I do not think the poor are worse off now than before, except a few bad characters who cannot get their money for idling about as they once did. If I want a man for a day or two, I find him much more ready to work, and better behaved than before." Mr. Gulson's Report, Appendix (B.) No. 16.

Mr. *E. Parsons*, baker, Brill.—" I do not think the new law has made it any worse for my trade, considering that I was formerly obliged to trust a great deal to the poor; and some of the parishes did not pay their paupers for several weeks together." Ibid.

John Towersey, shopkeeper, Long Crendon.—" I like the alteration in the law very much; I do not think it has at all injured my shop; and having six acres of land which I occupy, I find a great difference in the rates." Ibid.

Mr. Gulson's Report, Appendix (B.) No. 16.

Mr. *James Hudson*, an extensive farmer, Guardian for Oakley.—"My men work more willingly, are better behaved and are much better servants altogether since the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and to that I entirely attribute the change."

Ibid.

Mr. *J. Watson*, farmer, Guardian for Denton.—"I am perfectly satisfied the New Poor Law has been the means of making the men much better servants, and I do not think the condition of the industrious labourer at all worse than before."

Ibid.

Mr. *E. Shrimpton*, farmer, late Guardian for Long Crendon.—"I am very certain that the men are a great deal more inclined to work, and better behaved in every respect than they were under the old system of parochial management; the industrious and independent labourer is much better satisfied now he sees the idle fellow who was formerly loitering about on the parish, is obliged to work as hard as himself. I am sure the condition of the industrious poor is bettered; and I think the small shopkeepers, from the conversation I have held with them, are not injured by the alteration."

Ibid.

John Duffell, publican, Long Crendon.—"I do not draw half so much beer as I did before the Union; but I have 16 acres of land, and I last year paid but 6*s.* instead of 20*s.* per acre."

Ibid.

John Terry, Great Hazely, beerhouse-keeper.—"I do not draw so much beer as I did by one barrel in three, and I think the men are much more steady than before the alteration took place."

We trust that the foregoing extracts of letters, (a small portion only of those of a like character which have been received) written by persons who have the best means of forming an accurate judgment, will have fully shown that the new law has already produced a very beneficial change on the labouring classes; that it has greatly diminished the burthens on the rate-payers is proved by the Returns, to which we shall presently point your Lordship's attention.

But the most gratifying evidence which has arisen since our last Report, is that which shows that the labourers who are dispauperised are more solicitous for the training of their children, and are anxious to gain useful employment for them. Every sort of profitable employment is now sought to be obtained for the children; small sums which would not have been thought worth acquiring, where they would have operated as a reason for diminishing the parish allowance, are now diligently inquired after as soon as children are of an age to be useful. In such cases the amount of the wages is of far less importance than the actual employment of the children, which removes them from abodes of indolence and vice, and trains them to habits of industry.

A large proportion of the population, the aged and the crippled, who are wholly helpless and have no friends to contribute to their support, we must expect will remain dependent on the public provision; but by placing the children of so large a proportion of the working classes in industrious courses, we consider that crime and pauperism will be most effectually extirpated. We trust that the perception of these ulterior advantages will stimulate the zeal of the Guardians to aid us in enforcing the speedy discontinuance of every remnant of the allowance system in districts where it is yet in any degree prevalent.

The appropriate treatment of the children in the workhouse, the larger proportion of whom are orphans, must be progressive with the arrangements for the classification and treatment of the paupers within the workhouse; as yet the regulations with respect to them are general, and may be found in the rules for the management of the workhouse. Acting upon the principle of the Statute of Elizabeth, which provides that "order shall be taken from time to time for setting to work the children of all such whose parents shall not be able to maintain them," we have endeavoured to direct the exertions of the local officers, as early as possible after the rudiments of education were obtained by the children, to gain for them independent employment out of the workhouse. We have learned with much pleasure that the training already communicated to children, by better appointed schoolmasters, and a better mode of instruction in the common acquirements of reading and writing, have already produced some

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of the effects intended, and that the children so trained are beginning to be considered better qualified for service.

Our Assistant Commissioners, on entering new districts, are frequently met with assurances that our instructional letters have been acted upon with as much promptitude and exactness as if they had been orders; and the state of the administration, especially in the progressive substitution of relief in kind for relief in money, and the check put to the extension or continuance of out-door relief, wherever there is a workhouse, verify these assurances. Another motive frequently impels the adoption of this course, namely, that of meeting investigation and preparing for the approaching change, by reducing the future averages of contribution to the expenses of the Union establishment. The Returns from the united parishes contain numerous announcements that these preparatory proceedings have been successfully adopted. The extensive effect of the impulse given by the change of the law, and the wide promulgation of its principles by means of the Reports which His Majesty's Government have caused to be published, as well as the correspondence, admonitory and instructional, of this office, is shown in the reduction of the rates in those parishes which have not yet been placed under the control of Boards of Guardians. Amongst the reductions which are general, must be included the reductions of the expense of litigation. The effect of the new machinery is however marked by the fact, that whilst the reductions in the best managed of the separate parishes generally average about 20 per cent., the reductions in the new Unions, which have been for more than half a year in operation, average about 43 per cent., often including expenses for furniture, and alterations, constituting a portion of the expenses of the first outlay.

We are not aware of any parish, distinguished for its improved management previously to its being included in a Union, where the rate-payers have not participated in the advantages of management on a larger scale. So far as the Returns have yet been received, it appears that the best managed parishes, those in some of which petitions were preferred against being included in the new Unions, setting forth, as the grounds of exemption, their former good management, and that they could sustain nothing but loss from the Union, a reduction has nevertheless taken place. In one of the best managed parishes in the kingdom, the rural parish of Cookham, in Berks, a parish where the poor-rates at one time amounted to nearly 4,000*l.* per annum, it appears that the expenditure for 1834–5 was 700*l.*; for 1835–6, 580*l.*; the average expenditure for three years preceding the Union was 852*l.* The average expenditure for the present year, formed on an estimate of the two last quarters, is 560 *l.*

In the parish of Hitchin, in Hertfordshire, another well-managed parish, where an increase was confidently predicted, the poor-rates in 1835, before the formation of the Union, amounted to 1,716 *l.*; after the formation of the Union they amounted to 1,209*l.*

The rates of another well-known parish in the same county, that of Welwyn, were, in 1834–5, before the Union, 763 *l.*; after the Union they were reduced to 496*l.*

The parish of Swallowfield, in the Wokingham Union, expended annually an average sum of 540*l.*, for the relief of the poor in 1833, 1834, 1835; during the year ended March 1836, the sum so expended was 231 *l.*

The rates of the parish of Uley, in Gloucestershire, now included in the Dursley Union, were, before the Union, 1,408 *l.*; the rate of expenditure for the last year was 428 *l.*

In a parish from whence petitions were presented to both Houses of Parliament, protesting that their own good management could not be exceeded, the parish of Stoke Pogis, in Buckinghamshire, the expenditure has been reduced, from 853*l.* in 1834–5, to 490 *l.* in 1835–6.

We have already stated, that we have added other parishes to some of the existing Unions as originally constituted; and the experience already obtained under the Commission indicates that the direction of future alterations of Unions will be in the addition of other parishes. The extent of many of the Unions was regulated by emergencies at the time of their formation, and some doubts as to the local capabilities for management on a larger scale. With reference to any opposition to the

extension of the field of management, it may be satisfactory to your Lordship to be informed, that the principles upon which that extension was determined are fully borne out, not only by a comparison of the progress of the parishes in Union with the progress of the parishes ununited, but by a comparison of the progress of the larger with the smaller Unions. Thus, if of the 110 Unions which we have specified as having been in operation more than 12 months, we take the 43 largest, and compare the results with the 24 positively smallest, and the 27 intermediate, in area, population and rates, we find that the savings effected in these Unions are in the following proportions:

43 largest Unions, rate of saving 46 per cent.
24 smallest Unions, rate of saving 29 per cent.
26 intermediate Unions, rate of saving 42 per cent.

So, if of the 64 Unions that have been in operation six months and upwards, we compare the 22 largest with the 15 smallest and 27 intermediate sized Unions, the reductions have been, in the

22 largest Unions, 41 per cent.
15 smallest Unions, 28 per cent.
27 intermediate Unions, 36 per cent.

The Commission of Inquiry was appointed in March 1832, and continued in operation until the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act on the 14th of August 1834, or nearly until the appointment of this Commission on the 18th of the same month. The following is an abstract of the Returns, showing the progression of the parochial expenditure, from the date of the commencement of the inquiry to the present time, or a

STATEMENT of the Amount of Money levied by Assessment for Poor's Rate and County Rate in *England* and *Wales*, in the Years ended 25 March 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835 and 1836 respectively; and also, of the Amount of Money expended in the same Period, distinguishing the Payments made for the Relief of the Poor, the Sums expended in Suits of Law, Removal of Paupers, &c., the Sums expended in County Rate, and the Sums expended for all other purposes; and specifying the Rate of Increase or Decrease, as compared with the Year preceding.

Years ended 25 March.	Total of Money levied.	Expended for Relief of the Poor.	Expended in Suits of Law, Removals, &c.	Payments for or towards the County Rate.	Expended for all other Purposes.	Total of Parochial Rates Expended.	Increase per Cent.	Decrease per Cent.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.		
1832	8,622,920	7,036,969	- -	- -	1,646,492	8,683,461	4	-
1833	8,606,501	6,790,800	254,412	- -	1,694,670	8,739,882	-	-
1834	8,338,079	6,317,255	258,604	- -	1,713,489	8,289,348	-	7
1835	7,373,807	5,526,418	202,527	705,711	935,362	7,370,018	-	13
1836	6,356,345	4,719,238	172,482	699,952	823,241	6,414,912	-	15

The year 1833 was the first year since 1815 that the amount expended in suits of law and removals was separated in the annual returns from the expenditure for the relief of the poor. If the sum expended on suits of law be added to the other expenditure for the relief of the poor, it will be perceived that no diminution of the expenditure for relief took place during the year 1833, although that year was considered to be one of increasing prosperity. It may be observed, that from the extensive prevalence of the labour-rate and roundsman systems during late years, as well as from the increasing practice of charging the maintenance of paupers upon the highway rates, the amounts of expenditure stated in the Parliamentary Returns, inadequately represent the actual burthen of pauperism in the more pauperised districts.

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We have given in the Appendix two Tables, containing the abstracts of the expenditure for the parochial years 1835 and 1836. From those Tables it will be seen that the decrease of "money expended for the relief of the poor," was in the year 1835, as compared with the year 1834, 790,838 *l.*; that in 1836, as compared with 1834, the decrease of the expenditure under this head, was 1,599,625 *l.*; that the reduction in the expense of suits of law in 1835, as compared with 1834, was 56,077 *l.*; that the reduction on the same head of expenditure in 1836, as compared with 1834, was 86,173 *l.*, or nearly double the annual expenses of the Commission; that the decrease on the expenditure, effected by the same management for other miscellaneous purposes in the year 1836, as compared with 1835, was 112,149 *l.* We have no means of ascertaining the state of this head of expenditure in 1834, to compare it with 1835. Appendix (D.) No. 1 & 2.

If, upon the evidence of the frequent occurrence of parishes as favourably situated as others in general circumstances, but where no reduction of the rates has taken place, and where they have even increased during the two last years, the principles of the new administration not having been adopted in those parishes, it may be assumed that, but for the general promulgation and adoption of those principles and the new measures, the expenditure would have remained stationary at the amount at which it was in the year 1833; then, the total reduction or saving effected upon the rates levied for the relief of the poor by a change of management since that year is 3,809,489 *l.* If the total amount of parochial rates be considered for the last three years (during the first of which the expenditure for the county rates was not distinguished in the returns), then the gross saving is the sum of 4,145,368 *l.*, or in round numbers a gross sum of 4,000,000 *l.* saved from an expenditure which chiefly operated as a bounty on indolence and improvidence; but which is now applicable, and of much of it there is distinct evidence that it is actually applied, in the shape of wages, to remunerate productive industry.

The present rate of expenditure for the relief of the poor approximates to the rate of expenditure in 1803 more nearly than to that of any other years for which there have been returns; the total amount expended for the relief of the poor being then 4,077,891 *l.* We feel very little doubt that the actual expenditure at this time does not materially exceed that rate of expenditure.

For the purpose of estimating the effects of the new measures, we have selected the abstracts of the returns from all the Unions which have been in operation one year and upwards; and also from all those Unions which have been in operation six months, and not more than twelve months. The complete abstracts of the returns are given in the Appendix. The number of the Unions which have been in operation during one year or more is 109. We here submit to your Lordship the summary of the results of these Unions in the several counties:— Appendix (D.) Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10.

SUMMARY of the Returns from the Unions which have been in operation One Year or more.

COUNTIES.	Number of Unions.	Number of Parishes united.	TOTAL Population of Parishes united.	Number of Paupers Relieved.					
				Christmas 1835.			Lady-day 1836.		
				In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.
Bedford	6	134	98,459	682	5,792	6,474	941	6,037	6,978
Northampton	6	138	84,240	209	5,143	5,352	291	4,979	5,270
Bucks	5	116	75,924	295	2,407	2,702	874	4,380	5,254
Oxford	3	92	50,403	248	2,924	3,172	325	3,149	3,474
Kent	14	218	140,772	1,462	13,755	15,217	2,044	14,335	16,379
Sussex	18	256	182,635	2,199	10,022	12,221	2,848	10,181	13,029
Suffolk	3	101	58,368	187	2,955	3,142	655	6,877	7,532
Middlesex	1	8	13,191	131	245	376	133	318	451
Berks	10	198	147,755	923	7,555	8,478	1,501	9,384	10,885
Wilts	2	26	21,633	284	1,565	1,849	286	1,515	1,801
Herts	10	122	123,316	1,062	3,635	4,697	1,594	5,193	6,787
Hants	22	290	193,478	1,708	13,378	15,086	2,043	13,686	15,729
Gloucester	1	35	21,368	109	547	656	113	543	656
Cambridge	3	77	36,204	93	2,439	2,532	157	2,640	2,797
Essex	3	76	60,968	259	1,985	2,244	768	4,934	5,702
Norfolk	2	64	27,757	-	3,034	3,034	- -	4,052	4,052
Totals	109	1,951	1,336,471	9,851	77,381	87,232	14,573	92,203	106,776

These Returns were made from the summary of the new forms of accounts; but the accounts were not brought into sufficiently extensive operation to enable us to give the results for more than the two last quarters.

The number of the new Unions which have been in operation upwards of six months, and not more than 12 months, is 64. The following is the summary of their results during the last quarter:—

SUMMARY of Returns from the Unions which have been in operation Six Months and upwards, but not Twelve Months.

COUNTIES.	Number of Unions.	Number of Parishes united.	Total Population of Parishes united.	Number of Paupers Relieved.			Workhouses.			Quarter's Expenditure.	Estimated Annual Expenditure.	Average Annual Expenditure, 1833, 4, 5.	Saving on Annual Expenditure.	Rate of Saving per Cent.
				In-door.	Out-door.	Total.	Old.	New.	Room for					
										£.	£.	£.	£.	
Bucks	1	45	22,087	- -	2,554	2,554	5	1	470	1,942	7,768	18,021	10,253	57
Oxford	2	55	27,410	- -	1,884	1,884	–	1	350	2,510	10,040	18,643	8,603	46
Wilts	15	286	192,921	966	16,440	17,406	20	7	3,451	21,508	86,032	145,091	59,059	41
Kent	7	106	100,181	1,294	7,501	8,795	26	3	2,544	13,498	51,691	87,670	35,979	41
Northampton	5	160	80,603	170	7,650	7,820	10	2	558	8,397	36,300	59,493	23,193	39
Suffolk	8	250	148,137	1,509	11,116	12,625	58	2	3,918	19,815	79,260	125,253	45,993	37
Norfolk	3	89	31,947	51	2,329	2,380	–	3	650	3,877	15,508	24,285	8,777	36
Dorset	6	99	59,731	378	3,512	3,890	4	3	1,160	5,301	23,407	36,229	12,822	35
Lincoln	4	94	62,901	610	2,152	2,762	18	3	1,836	4,940	23,539	36,422	12,883	35
Essex	6	129	87,161	1,010	6,625	7,635	22	1	1,220	11,590	46,360	68,773	22,413	33
Leicester	2	77	28,244	61	2,413	2,474	2	–	230	2,528	16,736	21,676	4,940	23
Gloucester	5	93	71,654	566	2,535	3,101	10	–	840	5,318	20,184	25,768	5,584	22
Totals	64	1,483	912,977	6,615	66,711	73,326	175	26	17,227	101,224	416,825	667,324	250,499	38

We have annexed a summary of the numbers of paupers, and the amount of money expended in the 173 Unions, during the quarter from Christmas to March last. From this Summary it may be perceived, that of the total number of 180,102 paupers relieved in those Unions, no less than 158,914 were relieved as out-door paupers; and that whilst there was room in the workhouse for upwards of 52,849 paupers, allowing such ample space for each individual as to admit of a much greater number upon a pressure, not more than 21,188, or about one in nine, were relieved in the workhouse. This statement may be adduced in proof of the fact, that as yet the proceedings for the application of the workhouse test have been only preparatory. The quarter referred to is the heaviest quarter in the year: it is that in which there is the greatest want of employment in the rural districts. On reference to the Summary of the results of the proceedings of the 110 Unions, it will be perceived that there was an increase of the number of paupers relieved during the March, as compared with the Christmas quarter; which may further be adduced as evidence that the change has not been carried forward inflexibly, without reference to the seasons, or the contingencies

- - - SUMMARY of the Returns from the Unions which have been in operation One Year or more.

Workhouses.			Quarter's Expenditure.		Estimated Annual Expenditure.	Average Annual Expenditure, 1833–34–35.	Saving on Annual Expenditure.	Rate of Saving per Cent.	COUNTIES.
Old.	New.	Room for	Christmas 1835.	Lady-day 1836.					
			£.	£.	£.	£.	£.		
18	6	2,575	9,692	10,218	41,680	83,532	41,852	50	- Bedford.
13	5	1,923	7,316	8,187	31,006	62,078	31,072	50	- Northampton.
17	2	1,601	4,105	10,158	39,108	74,701	35,593	48	- Bucks.
8	2	1,030	6,394	6,587	25,134	47,032	21,898	47	- Oxford.
25	12	7,306	16,401	22,460	77,722	145,012	67,290	46	- Kent.
55	4	5,440	27,223	26,949	106,384	198,639	92,255	46	- Sussex.
2	1	1,800	7,953	9,062	34,030	61,106	27,076	44	- Suffolk.
2	-	150	2,393	1,263	4,874	8,568	3,694	43	- Middlesex.
20	4	3,242	16,131	17,329	65,366	115,681	50,315	43	- Berks.
3	-	510	2,738	2,734	10,944	19,245	8,301	43	- Wilts.
26	3	2,745	9,016	13,322	51,456	84,480	33,024	39	- Herts.
41	7	4,780	23,824	24,262	95,516	151,484	56,309	37	- Hants.
1	-	150	1,082	1,185	4,534	6,931	2,397	35	- Gloucester.
4	2	420	4,468	4,918	18,198	27,164	8,966	33	- Cambridge.
14	1	1,095	8,722	9,801	37,046	53,728	16,682	31	- Essex.
-	2	855	2,090	5,334	19,870	28,839	8,969	31	- Norfolk.
249	51	35,622	149,548	173,769	662,868	1,168,220	505,693	43	- - Totals.

contingencies for which the pauperised labourers have hitherto been unaccustomed to provide.

The accounts of the numbers of the paupers relieved out of the house, have not yet been obtained with perfect accuracy; and we can only present these and the other tables of the description of paupers relieved, contained in the Appendix, as the best approximation to the truth which we could procure:— Appendix (D.) Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10.

SUMMARY of the Returns from the 173 Unions.

COUNTIES.	Number of Unions.	Number of Parishes united.	Total Population of Parishes united.	Number of Paupers Relieved, Lady-day 1836.			Workhouses.			Quarter's Expenditure.	Estimated Annual Expenditure.	Average Annual Expenditure, 1833, 4, 5.	Saving on Annual Expenditure.	Rate of Saving per Cent.
				In-door.	Out-door.	Total.	Old.	New.	Room for					
										£.	£.	£.	£.	
Bedford - -	6	134	98,459	941	6,037	6,978	18	6	2,575	10,218	41,680	83,532	41,852	50
Buckingham -	6	161	98,011	874	6,934	7,808	22	3	2,071	12,100	46,876	92,722	45,846	49
Oxford - -	5	147	77,813	325	5,033	5,358	8	3	1,380	9,097	35,174	65,675	30,501	46
Sussex - -	18	256	182,635	2,848	10,181	13,029	55	4	5,440	26,949	106,384	198,639	92,255	46
Northampton -	11	298	164,843	461	12,629	13,090	23	7	2,481	16,584	67,306	121,571	54,265	45
Kent - -	21	324	240,953	3,338	21,836	25,174	51	15	9,850	35,958	128,413	232,682	103,269	44
Berks - -	10	198	147,755	1,501	9,384	10,885	20	4	3,242	17,329	65,366	115,681	50,315	43
Middlesex -	1	8	13,191	133	318	451	2	–	150	1,263	4,874	8,568	3,694	43
Wilts - -	17	312	214,554	1,252	17,955	19,207	23	7	3,961	24,242	96,976	164,336	67,360	41
Suffolk - -	11	351	206,505	2,164	17,993	20,157	60	3	5,718	28,877	113,290	186,359	73,069	39
Hertford - -	10	122	123,316	1,594	5,193	6,787	26	3	2,745	13,322	51,456	84,480	33,024	39
Hampshire -	22	290	193,478	2,043	13,686	15,729	41	7	4,780	24,262	95,516	151,484	56,309	37
Dorset - -	6	99	59,731	378	3,512	3,890	4	3	1,160	5,301	23,407	36,229	12,822	35
Lincoln - -	4	94	62,901	610	2,152	2,762	18	3	1,836	4,940	23,539	36,422	12,883	35
Norfolk - -	5	153	59,704	51	6,381	6,432	–	5	1,505	5,967	35,378	53,124	17,746	33
Cambridge -	3	77	36,204	157	2,640	2,797	4	2	420	4,918	18,198	27,164	8,966	33
Essex - -	9	205	148,129	1,778	11,559	13,337	36	2	2,315	21,391	83,406	122,501	39,095	32
Gloucester -	6	128	93,022	679	3,078	3,757	11	–	990	6,503	24,718	32,699	7,981	24
Leicester -	2	77	28,244	61	2,413	2,474	2	–	230	2,528	16,736	21,676	4,940	23
Totals - -	173	3,434	2,249,448	21,188	158,914	180,102	424	77	52,849	274,993	1,078,593	1,835,544	757,292	41

There are persons who imagine that the prosperous state of the country would have gone far to produce the results we have exhibited without the aid of the new law; and that even with its aid, if any change should take place, arising from scarcity of food or commercial distress and embarrassment, pauperism, with all its former train of evils, must inevitably recur. We do not deny that the progress of the change we have described has been highly favoured by the prosperous condition of the manufacturing districts, by the cheapness of provisions, and by the general demand for labour.

The knowledge of the fact of the existence of the demand for employment has given confidence to the Boards of Guardians in the execution of our orders and regulations, and the cheapness of provisions has encouraged proceedings for the

extinction of the system so prevalent in the southern counties, of making allowances in aid of wages to able-bodied labourers as the heads of families. But it must not be forgotten that in whole districts, whilst provisions were as cheap as they have ever been of late years, and whilst the demand for employment was progressive, pauperism nevertheless continued to increase. The application of the measure at different periods of the two last years at times when employment has been slack, and in places where distress has been the subject of loud complaint, has been attended with the usual average of beneficial results, results differing only in degree.

In several of the dispauperised districts where the change has approached to completeness, as in Kent, Sussex, and in others, the labour-market has not apparently, during any portion of the period of change, been influenced by the demand for labour from the line of railroads in progress of formation, or from the manufacturing districts, no considerable number of labourers having been found to have removed to meet such demands during any period of the change. The total number of labourers who have emigrated under our sanction during the year ended July 1835 was, from Kent, 9; from Sussex, 31; the number who emigrated during the year ended July 1836 was, from Kent, 320; from Sussex, 248. The numbers who have migrated with the aid of the Board to the manufacturing districts have been from Kent, five families, comprising 48 individuals; and from Sussex 14 families, comprising 66 individuals.

The parts of the country where these aids have been put into the most active operation, are not proportionably distinguished for their advance beyond others, and their condition supplies a proof that neither the cheapness of provisions, nor the existing demand for labour, even when aided by emigration, can, without the aid of the law, suffice to dispauperize a district. It is evident, we think, that pauperism when once established defies such influences, and if it were necessary, facts might readily be adduced in proof of this assertion.

Appendix (B.) No. 4.

It is stated by Mr. Power, in his report, "that the season was highly favourable to the operation of the new system, and that it was more than usually productive of resources to the labouring man, especially in those quarters where the new law has been brought into operation; there was in fact more employment, and much more employment afloat, than in any recent former season;" but he denies "that this great increase of employment was owing solely or mainly to so precarious a cause as the bulk of the harvest, or to another cause which has been alleged, the demand for labour existing in distant parts of the country." Neither again does he admit, "that the increased amount of employment, great as that increase from various sources may have been, can account in any great degree for the sudden and universal disappearance of the applications 'to be paid for lost time,' knowing that the latter practice may co-exist in full vigour with the most abundant state of employment. Otherwise it would not have happened last harvest that the wheat was rotting in Rochford hundred and other southern hundreds of Essex for want of hands to reap it at 21*s.* and 24*s.* an acre, at the very same time that able-bodied healthy men were lying under the hedges with a parish allowance of 3*s.* a week, in another part of the same county not at that time under the operation of the new law."

Several districts where emigration has been applied most actively, are yet amongst the least advanced in improvement.

In estimating the probable permanency of the results which we have shown to be produced by the Poor Law Amendment Act, let it never be forgotten that the whole amount which has been saved out of the former expenditure, is placed in the hands of those who are shown by the evidence in the Appendix, to apply it immediately in the payment of wages of labour, in the very district in which it was formerly wasted in maintaining paupers in idleness. The labourers having become orderly and industrious, the farmer has now both the means and the inducement to improve the cultivation of his farm, and in so doing, a new and extensive demand for labour is permanently created.

We see nothing in this which is temporary or transient; prices may rise or fall, as seasons or circumstances vary; but under all such circumstances a principle of adaptation will exist, arising from the mutual interests of the labourer and his employer, which will induce them so to adjust their concerns (if the law does not interfere to prevent them), as to ensure a palliative at least, if not a remedy for the evil. If difficulties occur, such aid as a Poor Law can afford is always attainable, there being no rule of the Commissioners which is not capable

capable of being adapted to any emergency whenever it shall be proved that a necessity for it has actually arisen. The evidence of the operation of the measure in the various districts referred to, appears to us to establish the conclusion, that no distress of the classes engaged in agriculture or manufactures, that shall not exceed the distresses which have occurred of late years, can call for any relaxation of the rules now in force for the administration of relief.

From the trial made under such varied circumstances, therefore, we feel justified in expressing our confidence, not only in the permanent character of the improvements herein described, but that such improvement will be progressive, so long as correct principles of poor-law administration continue to be enforced.

We have already exceeded the limits within which we hoped to confine this Report; but although we could have enlarged more fully on most of the topics adverted to, we have refrained from doing so; because the working of the Act, and the measures taken for carrying into effect the intentions of the Legislature, are shown in detail in the Appendix. To the various documents contained therein we must therefore, in conclusion, content ourselves with referring your Lordship, in further illustration of the proceedings taken under the authority of the Commission entrusted to us for carrying out the system contemplated in the Poor Law Amendment Act.

We have the honour to be, My Lord,

Your Lordship's very obedient Servants,

THOMAS FRANKLAND LEWIS.

(L.S.) JOHN GEORGE SHAW LEFEVRE.

GEORGE NICHOLLS.

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Appendix (A.)

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE CENTRAL BOARD.

— No. 1. —

Appendix (A.)
No. 1.
Employment of Able-bodied Paupers.

SUGGESTIONS as to the most eligible Modes of providing Out-door Employment for Able-bodied Paupers, in Cases where there is not an efficient Workhouse, and preparatory to the Establishment of the Workhouse System.

1.—The Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales have received numerous applications for their advice, as to the best mode of setting to work able-bodied labourers who apply for relief, in cases where there are no workhouses into which they can be received, or where it is not deemed expedient to restrict relief altogether to the workhouse in the early stage of Union operations.

2.—It is impossible to give specific directions on this subject that shall be applicable to all cases; but the Board consider that it may, nevertheless, be useful to furnish the Union and parish authorities with a statement of the general principles which ought to govern them in providing employment for paupers, and with the opinion of the Commissioners upon the comparative merits and defects of certain modes of employment which have been resorted to in various places, with more or less advantage; bearing in mind always, that the best form of out-door labour at task-work on account of the parish, however well-devised and enforced, is but secondary to the application of the workhouse system, and can only be sanctioned as a palliative for a time, and until adequate and efficient workhouse accommodation shall be provided.

3.—The two great principles to be kept constantly in view, in providing employment for paupers, are these:

Firstly.—That parish work should be of such a nature as to discourage applications from all who are not really necessitous, and thereby to stimulate labourers to independent exertion in seeking after and obtaining employment for themselves; and

Secondly.—That pauper labour ought likewise to be of such a nature as to hold out no temptation to the employer to resort to it through an abuse of the poor-rates, rather than seek for independent labourers to perform his work.

4.—It follows, therefore, that the work to be provided for paupers, should be of a laborious and undesirable nature in itself, and that the remuneration should be less than would be paid for work of equal quantity, if performed by independent labourers; and further, that such work should not be of the kind in which the independent labourers of the district are ordinarily employed, neither should it be much regarded as to its profitable results; but it should be viewed merely as a condition on which that relief, which their necessities require, and which the law allows, is to be administered to paupers.

5.—If these principles are applied to the different kinds of parish employment usually resorted to, there will be little difficulty in determining which is the least objectionable.

6.—The most usual mode of setting able-bodied paupers to work, is in the repair of the roads, or in the preparation of materials for that purpose. So far as this work is capable of being measured and performed by task, and provided that it be properly superintended by a person appointed for that purpose, it would seem to be a judicious mode of employing paupers. The nature of the employment itself, and the fact that it has been for a considerable period generally appropriated to this peculiar class of persons, influence labourers to prefer almost any other kind of employment. Much of the labour on the roads, however, is defective, as a test of pauperism, in consequence of the difficulty of ascertaining the quantity performed, and of superintending its performance; and it has been found better in most cases to confine the paupers solely to the preparation of road materials, in a yard or other inclosure set apart for that purpose.

7.—The efficacy of the stone-yard in disburthening the parish from able-bodied paupers, has been most satisfactorily exemplified in various parishes of the metropolis, but especially in those of St. Marylebone and St. George Hanover-square, and it may be useful to contrast these satisfactory results with the injurious effects produced by ill-superintended pauper labour on the roads, or in the gravel-pits, of which such numerous instances have existed in most parts of the country under the old system.

8.—The evils attendant on the employment of paupers on the roads, have induced the parish authorities, in many instances, to set the able-bodied paupers to work in trenching, in grubbing up roots, or in the cultivation of a parish farm by spade-husbandry.

9.—The first of these methods was adopted by the Rev. Mr. Whately, of Cookham, who states, "That as regards the able-bodied pauper, the principle steadily kept in view in the parish of Cookham, was to let him know that the parish is the hardest taskmaster, and the

Appendix (A.)

No. 1. Employment of Able-bodied Paupers.

worst paymaster he can find, and thus induce him to make his application to the parish his last, and not his first resource."

The means of carrying this principle into execution, were stated to be as follows: "The second class of paupers (namely, the able-bodied paupers) was speedily thinned, when they were obliged to work hard by the grate, or at piece-work, for lower wages than they could get elsewhere. The work provided was trenching; an acre of hard gravelly ground was hired for the purpose; some of the vestry, at the outset, considered that this quantity of land would be utterly inadequate; many of the farmers thought the parish officers would have to trench the whole parish, but it turned out that not more than a quarter of an acre was wanted for the purpose. The labourers worked much better when the protection for bad labour was withdrawn; their labour made a better return to the farmer's capital; the demand for labour improved, and wages were improved. About 63 heads of families, which were formerly constantly on the parish, now at once disappeared."

The assistant overseer of Cookham parish stated, "That when the able-bodied paupers were first set to work at trenching, they pretended that they could not do so much work as would enable them to get a living at the prices fixed. Knowing this to be false, I paid an independent labourer, an old man of 70, to work, and as he did a great deal more than two of the stoutest young men amongst the paupers pretented they were capable of doing, they declared, 'We must cut this, this work won't suit us,' and they took their departure to search out regular employment."

Mr. Barnett, the permanent overseer of the parish of St. Mary, Nottingham, where the same principle was acted upon, "began by offering piece-work to every applicant for relief, and employed an intelligent labourer to fix the price. Forthwith 60 or 70 paupers would appeal to the magistrates every week, complaining that they were not strong enough to perform the quantity of work, which, at his rate of pay, would entitle them to receive a sum adequate to the maintenance of their families. Anticipating this manœuvre, he had provided himself with men of less than the average physical strength, whom he produced before the mayor, and who deposed to their ability to perform a greater quantity of work than that allotted by Mr. Barnett. By expedients of this nature he baffled the complaints of the paupers, their opposition grew gradually weaker and weaker, and now there are, speaking generally, no applications to the magistrates."

The principle of management adopted in the parish of Hatfield, Herts, is thus stated; "All persons, except women, employed by the parish under the age of 50, shall be employed in task-work. The value of the work done by them shall be calculated at five-sixths of the common rate of wages for such work. Persons above the age of 50 may be employed in such work as is not capable of being measured, but the wages of their labour shall be one-sixth below the common rate of wages."

The permanent overseer of that parish gives the following evidence, as to the practical application of the principle for the employment of the labourers: "The great point in the employment of paupers at piece-work, is for the manager to be a good judge of the work, otherwise the paupers will be sure to cheat him. They here will do very little with any new work at the onset, in order to get the price raised, and when you have once fixed a price you must keep to it. We have had them here pretend that they have worked as hard as they could, and could get no more than 3 *s.* or 4 *s.* per week; that as they could not live on such a sum, the allowance ought to be raised. But, as I knew that they could do more work, I refused to give any higher sum, and the week following, when they found they could not, they have earned 10 *s.* or 11 *s.* per week."

10.—The instances here cited are taken from cases of long trial and success, as stated in evidence, already submitted to the Legislature. But the Commissioners have had before them other and more recent examples; one class of which, namely, the use of corn-mills, as a means of employing the able-bodied paupers, whether resident within or without the house, is described in the subjoined extract from a report by their Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Power; on which the Commissioners would merely observe, that by the use of a corn-mill, the difficulties attendant on hiring land, and the difficulties of superintending out-door labour, are avoided. "The system which I found generally prevailing, of making allowance to able-bodied men out of work, was usually accompanied by some form or other of out-door employment, and the chief difficulty which presented itself was, to keep clear from the many evils and the various modes of injustice to the labouring man, which appeared to be involved in the provision of out-door employment by the parish, whether on parish farms, parish roads and gravel-pits, or on the private farms and property of individuals.

"Having seen in the workhouse of St. George's parish, Hanover-square, a large hand-mill for grinding wheat into flour, worked by a considerable number of able-bodied men, and having been assured by the master of the workhouse, that the same kind of machine had been used under his superintendance, with the most successful results, as a means of giving out-door employment to able-bodied paupers in a country parish, my attention was turned to the propriety of introducing such a machine into the new Unions, as subsidiary to the proposed workhouse system. In the course of my inquiries in Essex, I was much confirmed in my belief of the efficacy of hand-mills, by finding two instances in which the paid officer of a large parish had bought a hand-mill on his own account, with the view of turning to some profit the labour of able-bodied men for whom he was required to find employment. In each case the speculation had proved most disastrous to the speculator; the machine cost an outlay of 60 *l.*, for which no return could be obtained by grinding, for want of hands to work it. In one of these cases the machine was sold at a considerable loss, after which the parish again reverted to able-bodied pauperism; in the other case I found the mill preserved, but covered over with cobwebs, and the parish free from able-bodied paupers.

"Immediately

"Immediately on the formation of the Unions of Bishop Stortford, Dunmow, Saffron Walden, and Ware, I strongly recommended the guardians to purchase one or more large hand-mills, and have had the satisfaction to find my advice followed in all these Unions. The effect has fully answered the most sanguine expectations entertained; since the guardians have been enabled to meet with success, a multitude of applications from able-bodied paupers, which must have embarrassed them at first, had they relied solely on the workhouse accommodation they were enabled to offer. Although used as a means of affording out-door employment, the machine has invariably been received within the workhouse premises, and thus affords occupation, not only to such of the able-bodied paupers as it is found convenient to lodge in the house, but also to such as choose to seek this kind of work from various parts of the Union, and on whom the guardians do not impose the necessity of lodging altogether in the house. In the latter case, however, the wages allowed for working at the mill are less than the rate of private wages, and are paid half in kind. I do not pretend to say that a strict workhouse system would not produce a greater and a more beneficial effect on the whole, and perhaps without impediment or countervailing disadvantage; but certainly a great and beneficial result has been obtained. At this time last year there would have been scarcely fewer than 1,000 able-bodied paupers in the four Unions above named, applying to their several parishes for employment, or to be paid for lost time, as it is called; at present, I believe, there are not in the four Unions so many as 50 men working on the parish account.

"It is necessary to be observed in the employment of the hand-mill, that a lower allowance than the common rate of wages, or even the lowest allowance necessary to subsistence, will not prove effective unless it be given on condition of receiving for it, whatever be its amount, a full day's labour in return. In the parish of Sible Hedingham, in Essex, a hand-mill of the best description has been used for some time, as a means of affording out-door employment to the able-bodied; nevertheless the number of men out of work in this parish, at the present time, is 108. This failure of effect arises, as I believe, solely from the practice of employing the whole body in three or four several gangs, as the case may be, so that no man gives more than one-third or one-fourth of a day's work for his allowance, and each has the remainder of the day at full liberty and unoccupied by labour. The parish of Sible Hedingham has recently been formed into union with Halstead and others in that part of Essex, and an opportunity will soon be afforded of seeing whether a somewhat different application of the identical instrument, which appears for the present to have failed, will not speedily be attended with a very different result. The truth is, that, as now used, it operates with equal injury to the energies, motives and interests of the men, as the pernicious system of employment on roads, gravel-pits and parish farms, badly superintended; but as we propose to use it at Halstead, it will be found to offer a less eligible kind of labour than that independent employment which is to be found in various parts of the country, by those who are sufficiently disposed to seek it."

11. It will be perceived from the foregoing observations, that the Commissioners consider that the question whether the work performed by paupers is profitable in a pecuniary sense, is altogether secondary to the main question, namely, whether as a condition of obtaining relief it operates to discourage pauperism. From misapprehension on this point, it has been sometimes attempted to obtain a profit for the parish, not only by cultivating parish farms, but by setting up various sorts of manufactures, to be carried on by pauper labour. Such efforts, however, have always proved abortive, and have invariably entailed a loss upon the parish, as well as caused injury to the independent labourer, by interfering with the labour market. The Board, therefore, most decidedly discourage all such attempts on the part of parishes or unions.

12. As the Commissioners cannot venture to state that any of the kinds of pauper labour above described will of themselves act as invariable tests of the real necessity of the able-bodied pauper, or of his actual inability to obtain employment, they would advise the union and parish authorities not to set any able-bodied pauper to work until he has produced satisfactory evidence that he has used his best efforts to obtain employment. With this view he might be required to produce a certificate signed by all the occupiers of land, and usual employers of labour, within a given distance, and without reference to parish boundaries, to the effect that he had applied to them, and that they had no work to give him.

13. Whatever may be the description of employment furnished to paupers, it is indispensable that it should be strictly superintended; and where the overseer or relieving officer is not able to perform this duty, a competent person should be appointed who might be designated the work inspector, and who should keep an accurate account of the labour and behaviour of the paupers so employed, in the form prescribed for the out-door labour book, to be examined weekly, or oftener, by the union or parish authorities.

14. As before stated, the allowance or remuneration for pauper labour must be less in amount than the ordinary wages of independent labourers. It is important also that a portion of this allowance, greater or smaller, according to circumstances, should be given in kind; one half in kind and the other half in money, will be the right proportion in most cases; and the Commissioners strongly recommend this for general adoption.

15. If there are married labourers with large families employed by the parish, and if their allowance on the reduced scale of parish pay here recommended should be really insufficient for the support of their families, it is recommended not to alter the rate of allowance given by the parish for pauper labour in the case of such labourers, but that additional relief should be supplied in kind to their wives and children, as far as shall be actually necessary in every such case. The amount to be paid for labour exacted as a condition on which relief is afforded to the pauper, should be fixed with reference to the ordinary day's work of a single able-bodied man; and the family of the married man, if unable to work, should be

Appendix (A.)
No. 1.
Employment of Able-bodied Paupers.

furnished with provisions according to their numbers and necessities, in the same way as other paupers. This would leave the married and the single labourers, individually, in precisely the same position as regards parish employment and relief; and would so far remove the incentive to early and improvident marriages, which the practice heretofore prevalent has had a tendency unduly to encourage.

Signed by order of the Board,

Edwin Chadwick, Secretary.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House, London,
21 September 1835.

— No. 2. —

Circular Letter on the Migration of Labourers.

No. 2.
Migration of Labourers.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,
23 October 1835.

Sir,

The Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales have received information from the manufacturing districts, that in those districts there are now frequent demands for the labour of families, comprehending children of the proper age and strength for employment.

As there are probably within the Union such families burthensome to the poor's-rates, the Commissioners wish to inform the guardians that they, the Commissioners, have at present an agent in Manchester, charged with the duty of receiving applications from manufacturers for hands of the requisite ages; and that in case there should be amongst those families chargeable to the Union any who are willing to migrate to the districts where employment may be found, the Commissioners will direct their agent to forward to the guardians, and through the guardians to the families chargeable, suitable offers for employment, at adequate wages.

In the Commissioners' first Annual Report, a copy of which will shortly be forwarded for the use of the guardians, will be found some statements explanatory of the circumstances under which migration from pauperised parishes to the manufacturing districts has already been facilitated; and of the effects which have been produced both upon the individuals migrating, and upon the parishes. To enable the Commissioners to render similar service to your Union, the necessary steps are, first, to ascertain what families or individuals, at present chargeable to the Union, are suitable for migration. Secondly, to ascertain with certainty which of the individuals, to whom offers of employment may be communicated, will accept them in preference to endeavouring to maintain themselves as independent labourers within the Union.

The Board desire to impress upon the guardians the importance of great care in the selection of the first families sent, as upon their good behaviour and success will most probably depend the demand for the labour of others from the same district. The guardians of the Union should themselves examine the parties who may express a willingness to migrate, and endeavour to ascertain, through the relieving officer of the district, what are their characters, and what may have been their previous habits.

The families most eligible will be those of widows with the greatest proportion of grown-up children. By the Factories' Regulation Act, all persons under the age of nine years are prohibited from working in cotton, wool and flax manufactories. Children between nine and 12 years of age are permitted to work, not exceeding nine hours in any one day, or 48 hours weekly; which restriction will extend to those under 13 years of age on the 1st of March next. Most manufacturers prefer engaging persons above 12 years of age, as not interrupting the continuous course of daily employment in the mills, which is usually 12 hours. In silk mills there is no restriction as to the age at which children may be admitted, and in such factories they are generally preferred at about eight years of age and upwards. Those under 12 years of age are, however, restricted to 10 hours' daily employment. You will, of course, be guided in the selection of the children by the evidence which they may have given of their docility, or by having been engaged in any occupation which might render them more particularly suited for factory employment.

Should any apprehensions be expressed of the children being over-worked or maltreated in the factories, you may state that the labour in all factories is now regulated by the Legislature, and that the Government have appointed gentlemen of high character as inspectors, to see that these regulations are carried into effect, and that due protection may, at all times, be ensured by complaints to these officers.

In determining the selection with reference to the moral character of the family, you will pay the greatest attention to the character of the mother for industry and good conduct, as her character is found to exercise the most permanent influence on the characters of the children.

You will cause a certificate of character on these points, in the form herewith sent, to be obtained from the clergyman of the parish, or some respectable persons by whom the parties have been employed, or to whom they are otherwise well known.

You will likewise cause the inclosed descriptive lists to be filled up with the names of such parties, stating accurately all the particulars required, as to age, capability, moral character, &c., and then transmit the same to the office of the Poor Law Commissioners, London. The certificates before mentioned must be returned with such lists.

Upon

Upon the receipt of any such communications, the Board will forward them to their agent at Manchester, with instructions to procure offers of employment suited to the previous occupation and habits of the parties expressing their willingness to migrate.

Upon the receipt of a favourable answer, the most convenient course for you to adopt will be to write to the agent, stating the time at which the family will be ready for departure, and requesting information as to the time and place for their reception. These letters might be transmitted by you unsealed through the office of the Commission.

The conveyance of the parties will depend upon local circumstances; but the best and most economical mode hitherto resorted to, is the conveyance by canal. The Commissioners are not prepared to prescribe any general rule as to the providing for the expense of such conveyance, which may be determined in each case by the means and dispositions of the families migrating.

The Board are disposed, at a future day, to declare relief given in this mode a loan repayable from the wages of the paupers, but they doubt the expediency of adopting this arrangement, until the advantages derivable from this species of migration have been more fully tried and made known.

By order of the Board,

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians. *Edwin Chadwick*, Secretary.

— No. 3. —

Instructional Letter respecting the Formation of Independent Medical Clubs.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,
6 May 1836.

Gentlemen,

The arrangements for affording medical relief to persons who, on account of their destitute condition, require to be supplied with it by their respective parishes may be held to be already provided for by the existing statutes: for although the 43d of Elizabeth makes no express provision for medical relief, still as paupers were to be relieved according to the nature of their actual wants and necessities, the overseers of the poor have long been in the habit of providing relief in medicine, as they have done in food or clothing, in cases where that particular description of relief appeared to them to be necessary. It would seem therefore that there exists no doubt or difficulty as to the course to be pursued with respect to all persons requiring medical relief, who may be already on the list of paupers.

It has, however, sometimes been a question, whether persons not being on the list of paupers, or in receipt of parochial aid, can be entitled to medical relief in cases of sickness or accident; and as doubts on this point appear still to exist, the Commissioners wish to point out, that in these, as in all other cases, actual necessity or destitution is the condition on which all applications for relief, medical or otherwise, are to be decided.

A labourer who, when in health, is able to earn an independent maintenance for himself and his family, may be speedily reduced to such a condition, by disease or accident, as to create the most pressing necessity for parish relief. With respect, however, to cases of this description, it should always be borne in mind that it is less revolting to men's feelings to ask relief in such circumstances, and more difficult to the parish authorities to scrutinize the necessity for granting it, than in any other cases which the guardians and relieving officers have to deal with, and there is danger on this account, that when relief in money or in kind shall nearly have ceased in a district, relief in medicine may still prevail; and that the habit of dependence on parochial aid, which has been the source of so much evil, may thus be continued.

It being the object of the Poor Law Amendment Act to restore the labourers to a state of independence, every method should be tried to enable them to maintain and preserve that position when once they have attained to it, and to strengthen the barrier by which they have separated themselves from pauperism. Although it is probable that the labouring class will not now resort to the parish for relief so readily as heretofore, still as the inducement to do so will continue to be stronger in cases of sickness and accident than in those of any other pressure or difficulty, it is in the highest degree necessary to provide for the labouring poor another and a better resource in such cases than can be afforded to them by the intervention of the parish.

The Commissioners entertain no doubt that this most important object may be effected by the formation of independent sick clubs. In many Unions institutions of this description have already been established by the exertions of benevolent individuals, aided by the co-operation of the medical practitioners in their respective districts. These institutions have been invariably productive of the most salutary effects; and there appears to be no reason to doubt that the terms on which they are established are satisfactory to the medical profession, whilst they are at the same time within the reach of every labourer earning the ordinary rate of wages.

That such clubs have not already become general, is, the Commissioners believe, owing chiefly to the facility with which the aid of the parish doctor has hitherto been obtained,

Appendix (A.)

No. 3. Independent Medical Clubs.

and to the want of a knowledge of the rules by which such clubs may be formed and governed.

The Commissioners therefore have caused the regulations of many of these associations to be brought before them, and they are now enabled to recommend to your notice the rules hereinafter inserted, as being well adapted, both in rural districts and in towns, to the purpose for which they are designed. They are capable of adaptation to the extent of different districts, to the average rate of wages which prevail within them, and to the number of medical practitioners who may be disposed to join in the club, and engage to attend its members on the terms specified. The leading principles of such associations, however, should never for a moment be lost sight of, namely, that they should be self-supporting, and independent of parochial aid.

In towns or densely peopled parishes, and where the number of opulent individuals resident is considerable, a benevolent institution to be supported by donations and subscriptions may not inappropriately be formed as an auxiliary to the medical club, for the purpose of distributing provisions or clothing, or such other comforts and assistance as the case may require, to the sick members; but the funds of such benevolent associations must be kept totally apart, and be administered distinctly from those of the club, which, in order to be lastingly beneficial, should be arranged on such terms as to enable it to support itself.

Although on this subject the Commissioners have no power to issue any positive order, the law having charged both them and yourselves, as guardians of the poor, with no other functions than those of superintending and duly administering the funds raised for the relief of the poor, they nevertheless think that the importance of the subject, and its close connexion with the objects of the Commission, will justify them in recommending it to your favourable consideration; and they conclude these observations by expressing their earnest hope that, collectively and individually, you will give all the aid in your power to the establishment of self-supporting and independent medical clubs in your district.

Signed by order of the Board,

To the Board of Guardians. *Edwin Chadwick*, Secretary.

Independent Medical Club.

Object.

The object of this association is to enable the labouring classes to insure to themselves medical and surgical attendance, and medicine during sickness, independently of parochial aid; and the medical gentlemen (1) resident in the district, who have assisted in the formation of this club, will attend its members under the following

(1) It is generally desirable that there should be more than one medical attendant to a club; and as each will be paid for the number of members he actually attends, the association may be extensive without inconvenience.

Rules.

I.—The members shall consist of labourers and servants in agriculture, or in handicrafts and trades, both male and female, strictly belonging to the working classes. (2) But no domestic servant receiving more than 6 *l.* annual wages, nor any artizan, or handicraftsman, or other workman receiving more than 1 *l.* per week wages, or whose earnings, together with those of his children under 16 years of age, exceed [24*s.*, 26 *s.*, or 30 *s.* (3)] per week, shall be permitted to be a member of this club.

(2) The restrictions here following may be omitted or modified at the discretion of the parties establishing the club.

(3) As may appear expedient with reference to the rate of wages in different districts.

II.—Each member on admission shall pay one year's subscription in advance for the current year, ending on the day of (4), and shall then be entitled to the benefit of the club; and the same amount shall be paid for each succeeding year, on the said day of on which day the accounts of the club shall be annually balanced.

(4) It seems generally desirable that the payments to the club should be made in the summer or autumn, at which time they would be least burthensome to the members. This, however, is altogether discretionary with the founders of the club.

III.—Members may be admitted at any time on paying the full subscription for the current year in advance; and they shall at the next annual balance, pay their subscriptions for the year then ensuing, like the other members.

IV.—Every individual without a child, who shall pay, (5) annually, [3 *s.*, 4 *s.*, or 4 *s.* 6 *d.*]

Every widow or widower with one child, who shall pay, annually, [3 *s.*, 4 *s.*, or 4 *s.* 6 *d.*]

Every man and wife who shall pay, annually, [4 *s.*, 5 *s.*, or 6 *s.*]

Every man and wife with one child, who shall pay, annually, [5 *s.* 6 *d.*, 6 *s.* 6 *d.*, or 7 *s.*]

Every man and wife with three children, who shall pay, annually, [7 *s.*, 8 *s.* 3 *d.*, or 9 *s.*]

Every man and wife with four children, who shall pay, annually, [7 *s.* 9 *d.*, 9 *s.*, or 10 *s.*]

Every man and wife with five children, who shall pay, annually, [8 *s.* 6 *d.*, 10 *s.*, or 11 *s.*]

Shall be entitled to receive all requisite advice and medicine from the medical attendant of the club, or when there is more than one, from such one of the medical attendants as the member may select.

(5) From the various rates here inserted, that particular amount of subscription is to be selected which is considered suitable to the district in which the club is about being established.

V.—The children of members above 16 years of age, (unless they be idiots or helpless cripples,) shall not be included in the subscription of the family, but must pay for themselves as independent members.

VI.—The

VI.—The wife of a member may be attended in her confinement, on paying to the medical attendant of the club, whom she may select, [5 *s.*, 7 *s.* 6 *d.*, or 10 *s.* (6)], one month before the time at which she expects to be confined.

(6) Varying in different districts, and to be fixed at the commencement of the club.

VII.—A man and his wife may be permitted to subscribe for themselves alone, or for their children alone, but not for any child separately, but if they subscribe for any one child under 16 years of age, they shall subscribe for all their children under 16, who may reside under their roof, according to rule IV.

VIII.—Any member may be permitted to subscribe for his aged and infirm parent or parents, (if unable to support themselves, and residing with their son's or daughter's family,) on the terms prescribed for a man and his wife and children under 16, *i. e.*, counting the parents as children.

IX.—No candidate who is actually ill, or any one of whose family is ill at the time of his or her application, shall be admitted a member, unless he or she procure two healthy persons to enter at the same time, each paying the current year's subscription in advance; or unless he or she pay such admission-fee as the medical attendant shall deem an adequate consideration for the attendance and medicine which such candidate or any part of his or her family may require in his, her or their then illness. After admission on such terms, the annual payments shall be the same as those required for other members of the club.

X.—When there is more than one medical attendant of the club, each member shall, on his entrance, and also at the time of paying his annual subscription, name the medical man by whom he wishes to be attended for the ensuing year, and no member shall be at liberty to change his medical attendant, except at such time.

XI.—Sick members shall furnish their own bottles and bandages, and in cases of rupture, their own trusses, and when able, shall attend on the medical man, who will visit them at their own houses when they are unable so to attend.

XII.—Habitual drunkards, and persons notoriously addicted to profligate habits, or who are known to be idle and disorderly, and individuals convicted of felony, shall not be admitted members of the club, or if admitted, shall not be allowed to continue members.

XIII.—The minister, and guardian or guardians of the poor of the parish, [*or Mr.* *and Mr.*](7), shall be stewards of the club. The stewards shall receive the subscriptions from the members, and pay the medical officers; and to them, every dispute or disagreement which may arise shall be referred for arbitration, and their decision thereon shall be final.

(7) It is presumed that the ministers and guardians will generally be found the most eligible for the important office of stewards, but other respectable individuals may be selected, and any number may be appointed. Any change in the appointment of stewards, which may have become necessary, must be made at the period of annual balance.

XIV.—The name, age and residence of each member, shall, on admission, be entered in a book by the stewards, with the name of the medical attendant whom the member may then select, and this registration shall be renewed annually, when the member pays his subscription.

XV.—All subscriptions shall be paid to the stewards on the day named in Rule II.; and if any member shall fail to pay his or her subscription for the space of one fortnight after such day, he or she shall cease to be a member; and no member whose subscription is in arrear, shall be entitled to receive medical aid from the club.

Any person thus disqualified, may, at the discretion of the stewards, be permitted to renew his subscription, and to become a member, on payment of a fine of 6 *d.*, and conforming to the Rules II. and III (8).

(8) The fines under this rule to be carried to a fund for providing stationery and such trifling articles as may be required for the use of the club.

XVI.—The subscriptions of members shall, in all cases, be paid over by the stewards at once, to the medical men whom the members have respectively elected to attend upon them.

— No. 4. —

Circular Letter on Malversation and Dismissal of Union Officers.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,
16 May 1836.

Sir,

I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales to transmit to you the annexed copy of a letter, in which they were informed of the particulars of an offence committed by one of the paid officers of the Gravesend Union.

No. 4.
Malversation and Dismissal of Union Officers.

The Commissioners having directed an inquiry to be made into the case by one of their Assistant Commissioners, and having ascertained that the principal facts are stated correctly in the letter conveying the information, have thought it their duty equally for the protection of the interests of the rate-payers, the fair traders, and the characters of the

Appendix (A.)
No. 4.
Malversation and Dismissal of Union Officers.

officers of the new Unions, to dismiss John Starbuck, the relieving officer, the person charged with the offence, as being unfit for his office, he is therefore no longer eligible to execute that or any similar office.

The Commissioners have directed their thanks to be communicated to the tradesmen, by whose prompt and proper course of proceeding they have been enabled to take this step to check the renewal or the commencement of the vicious practice described in the letter.

I am further directed to take this opportunity of stating to you that they have also found it their duty to dismiss the following officers, who are consequently not eligible to hold office in any other Unions :—

William Rockett, master of the workhouse of the South Stoneham Union, for insolence to the guardians, abuse to an infirm pauper, and for non-production of the required sureties.

John Smith, master of the workhouse of Hastings Union, for incompetency to perform his duties.

Nicholas John Drouett, master of the workhouse of Eastbourne Union, for drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

John Meaden, master of the workhouse of Ringwood Union, for incompetency to perform his duties.

William White and wife, master and matron of the workhouse of Wimborne Union, the master being in a repeated state of drunkenness.

Christopher and Matilda Ford, master and matron of the workhouse of Ware Union, for bad management of workhouse, and incompetency.

Thomas Dike, assistant overseer of the parish of Freshford, for cruel and negligent conduct towards the aged and infirm paupers.

William Jones, relieving officer of the Cuckfield Union, for misconduct and general inefficiency.

Peter Lindfield, relieving officer of the Cuckfield Union, for incompetency to perform his duties.

John Doswell, relieving officer of the Thakeham Union, for incompetency to perform his duties.

John Pugh, relieving officer of the Stow Union, for drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

Stephen Parker, master of the workhouse of the parish of Linton, for having had a bastard child by one of the female paupers.

The Commissioners have to request that the chairman of the board of guardians will make known to the paid officers of the Union the fact of the dismissal of the several officers, and the grounds of their several dismissals, as above recited.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your very obedient servant,

To the Clerk of the ——— Union. *Edwin Chadwick*, Secretary.

Annex to the above Letter.

(Copy.)

Sir, 20, Smithfield, 25 March 1836.

We beg leave respectfully to request that you will lay before the Board of Commissioners the following statement of facts :—

On Tuesday last (March 22), a relieving officer from the Gravesend and Milton Union, called upon us to pay our account for shoes supplied to the Union, 29 *l.* 16 *s.* 11 *d.* In settling the amount, he asked us for a discount, which he wished not to be taken off the bills of parcels, that it might not appear to have been allowed. We told him our prices were for nett cash, and that we could not make any deduction. He then repeated the same request; urging that his expenses to town would not be paid by the board; that new guardians were about to be chosen, and that he would recommend our shoes; conveying at the same time the intimation that if we did not allow him a commission, our shoes would not be recommended. As this was only one of several similar applications we have had from officers employed by the new Unions, we determined to accede to it in this instance, for the purpose of being enabled to give evidence of a practice which we believe to be very general, and which has a necessary tendency to increase the price or deteriorate the quality of all goods supplied for the relief of the poor. We agreed therefore to allow the relieving officer a discount of 6 *s.* 11 *d.*, which was objected to as not being sufficient for one who was anxious to promote our interests, but was however accepted.

The practice of allowing commissions to influential persons, is a very common one in trade, but one to which we have always been opposed. " You know," said the master of a workhouse to us on a former occasion, " there must always be a feeling in these things." We have however always refused to stoop to such means of obtaining custom, and in some cases have rather submitted to abandon, at a great loss, large and advantageous contracts, than adopt the more crooked policy which had been pursued by others.

We beg leave to submit, that it is important to the interests of every honest tradesmen, and we think also important to the efficient working of the new Poor Law Amendment Bill, that all orders and payments should proceed direct from a board of guardians, and never through the medium of their subordinate officers.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

To the Secretary of the Poor Law Commission. (signed) *W. Hickson & Sons.*

— No. 5. —

INSTRUCTIONAL LETTER respecting the CHARGES which may legally be allowed to be made upon the Poor Rates. Sent to the Officers of every Parish or Place, separately maintaining its own Poor, in *England* and *Wales*.

No. 5. Charges to be allowed in Parish Officers' Accounts.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,
1 March 1836.

To the Churchwardens, Overseers, and other Officers required to account for the Expenditure of the Poor-rates.

1. By the order for keeping, examining and auditing accounts, issued by the Commissioners under the authority of the Poor Law Amendment Act, it is required that the accounts of each separate parish, and also the accounts of every Union, shall be made up quarterly, and duly audited.

2. Under the late mode of administration, much money was unequally collected, or was altogether omitted to be collected, and much was improperly expended. Either from ignorance or neglect, many illegal practices have crept into the administration of relief, which, from their notoriety and general prevalence, have been supposed to be legal, and have frequently been continued in perfect confidence of their correctness. The Commissioners are aware that many of the charges thus illegally defrayed out of the poor-rates were incurred for useful public purposes, but all such illegal charges they are bound to disallow; and they have accordingly issued directions to the auditors to disallow them in the quarterly audit of the accounts. The Commissioners have directed the following instructions to be issued to prevent you from incurring such charges unwittingly, and to save you from the consequences of their disallowance. Some of these instructions may not be strictly applicable to individual parishes governed under the provisions of local acts. The nature of such modifications as may be necessary in each case cannot be here specified, but will readily suggest themselves to persons acquainted with the provisions of the acts in question.

3. Under the law as it stood previously to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, the churchwardens and overseers were alone answerable for the whole of the expenditure for the relief of paupers; and the accounts of masters of workhouses, and other subordinate officers, were necessarily included in the accounts of the churchwardens and overseers. Under the Poor Law Amendment Act, the obligation to account is extended to every officer or other person to whom money, or any goods, stock, or other property is intrusted; and the account must be regularly rendered for goods or stock as well as for money.

4. Formerly it was generally understood that the order of a magistrate or other superior authority, to any parish officer, was to be implicitly obeyed without any examination of its validity, and that the order of itself exonerated the officer to whom it was directed, from all legal responsibility; but, by the 96th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, it is enacted that thenceforth, from the passing of the statute, "no overseer shall be liable to any prosecution or penalty for not carrying into execution any illegal order of such justices or guardians; any law or statute to the contrary notwithstanding." As the accounts of every officer may be disallowed, so every officer, whilst he is bound to obey all orders which are legal, is equally bound to disobey all orders which are illegal, and will be personally answerable in either case.

5. On entering upon your office, you must obtain from your predecessors the balances of rates and other monies in their hands, and also ascertain whether there are any charges relating to the past year unliquidated. You must bear in mind that the law protects the present rate-payers from being charged with expenses incurred by former officers; and that, as a general rule, no items which relate to a past year, can properly be brought into the account for the current year. The exceptions to this rule are, where the preceding officers have, from unavoidable circumstances, and not from neglect, been unable to collect the rates, in which case they may be reimbursed for any advances made by them to the extent of the arrears of rates to be collected. Another admissible exception is, where the preceding overseers may have advanced sums of money during a time when no rate could have been enforced; as, where an appeal has been depending, by which the whole of the rate was affected, in which case the succeeding overseers may reimburse their predecessors in office. So, again, where a legal charge has accrued so late as to render it impossible to make and collect a rate of which the former overseers might have been reimbursed, in which case it is lawful for the succeeding overseers to pay the charge.

6. It should be observed that, by the 47th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, "All balances due from any guardian, treasurer, overseer or assistant overseer, or other person having the control and distribution of the poor-rate, or accountable for such balances, may be recovered in the same manner as any penalties and forfeitures are recoverable under this Act; provided, nevertheless, that no such proceeding shall discharge the liability of the surety of any such treasurer, overseer, or other person as aforesaid."

7. All penalties and forfeitures under this Act, may be levied by distress and sale of goods and chattels, by warrant under the hand of two justices; and in case such forfeitures be not forthwith paid, the justices may order the offender to be kept in custody until return can conveniently be made to the distress-warrant unless the offender shall give sufficient security for his appearance on the return-day of the warrant; but if, upon the return of the warrant,

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warrant, there appears that no sufficient distress can be had, the offender may be committed to the common gaol or house of correction, to remain without bail or mainprize, unless such penalties and all reasonable charges be sooner paid.

8. By the Act 43 Eliz., c. 2, s. 1, the churchwardens and overseers are directed to raise, weekly or otherwise, competent sums of money for the relief of the poor. By the 4th section, the same officers are armed with powers to enforce the payment of such money and "of all arrearages." But the parish officers having been allowed a discretion, in point of time, for the collection of rates, abusive practices have crept in, under which the collections have been made at much longer intervals than those intended by the Legislature. By neglecting to make frequent collections, large amounts have been required at each contribution from the rate-payer, and many persons who would have had no difficulty in paying smaller sums at more frequent intervals, have become defaulters. Through the length of these intervals, payment has also been frequently avoided, by the removal of the rate-payers out of the parish. It has also been a mal-practice of churchwardens and overseers, to favour some rate-payers by allowing them to continue in arrear for former rates, while more recent rates were in course of collection. By these neglects and mal-practices, the persons who pay the rates regularly have been unduly burthened, and much money has often been lost to the parish. It has, moreover, been a practice to harass particular individuals with collections, before the regular collection is made from the rate-payers generally.

9. To abate the evils which have thus grown up, and to limit the discretionary power under which they have been generated, it is now provided that the accounts shall be audited quarterly, and it will hereafter be requisite that you should regularly and impartially collect the rates, and pay all expenses incurred, and, as far as practicable, confine the quarterly accounts to the charges of the quarter.

10. It is proper to caution you that the quarterly audit now directed does not dispense with the usual yearly audit, and that any illegal charges which may escape the notice of, or be allowed by the auditors, at the quarterly audit, may nevertheless be disallowed or reduced by the justices at the yearly audit. The jurisdiction of the court of quarter sessions, on appeals from the allowances or disallowances of the yearly accounts of overseers by the justices, remains in force, and the penalties to which overseers neglecting to account, or to deliver over balances, or parish property, were made liable by former Acts, may still be imposed by justices of the peace.

11. By the statute 43d of Elizabeth, the overseers or collectors of rates are bound to collect, equally, the rates from all persons. It is only upon the authority of justices that any individual occupier can be excused from the payment of rates. If, therefore, you find any person occupying a tenement, who from poverty is incapable of paying his rates, the only course which you can legally take is to submit the case to the magistrates, with evidence of the fact of inability, such as his being only in partial employment, his having suffered from calamities, and his living in a state of privation of the ordinary comforts or conveniences. Proof must be given of a state approaching to pauperism on the part of any occupier, to exempt him from the payment of the rates. Having upon such evidence, and not upon the mere assertion of the party, received the magistrates' order to excuse the party from the payment of the rate assessed upon him, you must preserve such order; for unless you are enabled to produce it as a voucher, you may be compelled to pay the amount which you would otherwise have been called upon to collect.

12. The only other deductions allowed to be made in the collection of the rates are, where property, not subject to the rate, has been assessed by mistake, as where property is exempted or where it is unoccupied; also where persons have removed within the interval reasonably allowed for the collection of the rate, and have thus escaped payment in the regular course; but in every such case you are bound to collect the arrear thus accruing, and if necessary to resort to legal means for recovering the amount. You must be prepared with evidence to establish the grounds for these deductions from the full amount of the rate allowed; and, until the rate already allowed has been thus fully collected, no new rate must be applied for; and if applied for in any case, the justices are bound to withhold their sanction, and to require that the whole of the old rate should be first collected and accounted for.

13. Besides the poor-rates, you are bound to collect and bring to account the monies derivable to the parish from other sources; namely,

All rents, dividends, or other funds arising from bequests vested in the parish officers for the relief of the poor.

All payments by the natural relations of paupers, or by the parents of bastard children.

All repayments of relief given by way of loan, under the 59 Geo. 3, c. 12, or under the Poor Law Amendment Act, &c.

All repayments, by other parishes, of the cost of relief to paupers under order of removal, or otherwise.

All earnings by paupers maintained by the parish, in or out of the house.

All penalties, fines, and forfeitures, wholly, or in part, for the use of the poor;

As well as all other monies applicable to the same use.

14. Your attention will next be required to your duties in the expenditure of the rates and other monies so collected; and herein you must bear in mind, that usage is of no legal authority in the construction of the statute of Elizabeth, by which the poor-rates are established. The law has not given to the parish officers, or even to the vestry, any power of charging or of taxing their fellow-parishioners, even for useful purposes, at their own mere discretion; and no charge upon the poor-rates is legal, unless it is in plain words sanctioned or directed by some statute.

15. The

15. The following is a list of the statutes, under the authority of which the poor-rates are chiefly levied and expended:

AUTHORITY.	CHARGES ON RATES.
43 Eliz. c. 2 - - - - - -	Setting to work the able. Relieving the impotent.
4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 76, (P. L. Amendment Act).	Maintenance of the poor in workhouses. Out-door relief to the aged and infirm. Out-door relief to the able-bodied. Out-door relief in cases of emergency. Casual relief to the poor. Medical relief. Relief to bastards.
9 Geo. 4, c. 40, s. 38 - - - -	Charges of conveying and maintaining pauper lunatics.
5 Eliz. c. 4, and subsequent Acts -	Putting out apprentices.
2 & 3 Anne, c. 6, and 4 Anne, c. 19 -	Apprenticeship to sea service.
2 Geo. 3, c. 22 - - - - - -	Register and regulation of parish poor infants within the bills of mortality.
4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 76, s. 58 (P. L. Amendment Act).	Loans to poor persons.
59 Geo. 3, c. 12, s. 30 - - -	Loans to Greenwich and Chelsea pensioners. (The advances are recoverable quarterly, and an arrear of one quarter is not therefore allowable.)
59 Geo. 3, c. 12 - - - - -	Providing land, &c. for the poor. (The authority must have been exercised under the direction of the Poor Law Commissioners.)
4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 76, (P. L. Amendment Act).	Emigration.
52 Geo. 3, c. 16 - - - - -	Charges for relief to paupers during their confinement in gaols which are not county gaols.
5 Geo. 4, c. 85 - - - - - -	Allowances to discharged prisoners. (These are recoverable from the treasurer of the county on application by the overseer.)
3 Geo. 2, c. 29 - - - - - -	Reimbursed charges to parish officers for maintaining and removing certificated persons.
4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 76, s. 84, (P. L. Amendment Act).	Cost of relief to persons under orders of removal.
9 Geo. 1, c. 7; 22 Geo. 3, c. 83; 59 Geo. 3, c. 12; 4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 76; s. 21–25, (P. L. Amendment Act).	Building, altering, enlarging, purchasing, hiring, and fitting up of workhouses.
4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 76, s. 14, (P. L. Amendment Act).	Expenses of witnesses before Poor Law Commissioners where allowed by them.
4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 76, s. 82 - - - -	Costs of appeals.
59 Geo. 3, c. 12, s. 7 - - - -	Salary to assistant overseer.
12 Geo. 2, c. 29, &c. - - - -	County rate.
5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 76, s. 92, (Corporation Reform Act).	Borough rate in the nature of a county rate.
7 & 8 Geo. 4, c. 31, s. 15 - - -	Compensation by the hundred in places not contributing to the county rate.
7 Geo. 4, c. 64 - - - - - -	Costs and compensations in the prosecution of felony in such places.
25 Geo. 2, c. 36, s. 5; 58 Geo. 3, c. 70, s. 7 & 8.	Costs of prosecuting persons keeping disorderly houses.
18 Geo. 3, c. 19, &c. - - - -	Sums expended by constables in doing actual business of the parish, in the relief or removal of vagrants, &c.
11 Geo. 4, 1 Will. 4, c. 30, s. 10 - -	Making population returns.
6 Geo. 4, c. 50, s. 9 - - - -	Printing a sufficient number of jury lists.

16. This list is not to be deemed complete, as by clauses inserted in various general Acts, as well as by many local Acts, charges are, in certain cases, made payable out of the poor-rates for objects not connected with the original intention of the poor-laws. In no case, however, except in relief of destitution, will it be safe to make any payments out of the poor-rates, unless sanctioned by the express direction of some statute. In doubtful cases, therefore, the proper inquiry will always be, "Under what statute, or by what regulation, is the proposed charge warranted;" and, unless the authority can be found in the words of the statute, or in some lawful order or regulation of the Poor Law Commissioners, it must be presumed that the charge would be illegal.

17. By the 50th Geo. 3, c. 49, s. 1, the justices (and by the Poor Law Amendment Act, auditors) are authorized to strike out of the overseers' accounts "all such charges and payments as they shall deem to be unfounded, and to reduce such as they shall deem to be exorbitant, specifying on the foot of such account every such charge or payment, and its amount,

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amount, so far as such justices shall disallow or reduce the same, and the cause for which the same was disallowed or reduced."

18. With relation to the unfounded charges, the primary general rule has already been stated, namely, that all charges on the poor-rates are unfounded which are not authorized by some statute. With relation to the exorbitant charges, the general rule is, that all charges are exorbitant on which the overseers have paid any person for goods or services at a higher rate than such goods or services were offered by any other competent person, or than they might be obtained for by a private individual resident within the same district.

19. The charges which must be struck out as unfounded are those for relief given to persons who are not legally entitled to it, as not being in a state of necessity from destitution, and with relation to whom the securities prescribed by statute, or by the regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners, under the Poor Law Amendment Act, have not been complied with. By the 9th Geo. 1, c. 7, s. 2, it is provided that "no officers of any parish shall (except upon sudden and emergent occasions), bring to the account of the parish any monies he shall give to any poor person of the same parish, who is not registered in such book or books to be kept by the said parish, as a person entitled to receive collection; and as monies for the relief of such persons are directed not to be brought to the account, they must, if entered, be struck out. In Unions, the "Pauper Description Book," the "Weekly Relief Book" for out-door paupers, and the "Admission Book" for in-door paupers, prescribed by the Poor Law Commissioners, will supersede the collection book required by the 9th Geo. 1.

20. The cases of emergency which may legally be relieved are generally cases of sudden and calamitous accident; and it is provided by the Poor Law Amendment Act, s. 54, that in parishes included in any Union all such relief shall be given in kind, but not in money. The relief to be given will therefore be medicine, food or clothing, as the nature of the case may be. No case can be considered a case of emergency, when there is time for the parish officers to put the pauper requiring relief upon the collection book as provided; and in general two or three days will be found to be the utmost limits of a case of emergency.

21. Those charges must be deemed unfounded, and be disallowed in cases where, although it may have been lawful to give some relief, the relief actually given differs from that directed by the Poor Law Amendment Act, or by other statutes, or by the rules, orders and regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners. By the 89th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act it is provided, "That all payments, charges and allowances made by any overseer or guardian, and charged upon the rates for the relief of the poor, contrary to the provisions of this Act, or at variance with any rule, order or regulation of the said Commissioners, made under the authority of this Act, shall be, and the same are thereby declared to be illegal, any law, custom or usage to the contrary notwithstanding. And every justice of the peace is thereby required to disallow, as illegal and unfounded, all payments, charges or allowances, contrary to the provisions of this Act, or to any such rule, order or regulation of the said Commissioners, which shall be contained in any account of any overseer of the poor or guardian, which shall be presented for the purpose of being passed or allowed. Provided always, that no allowance by any justice shall exonerate or discharge such overseer or guardian from any penalty or legal proceeding to which he may have rendered himself liable, by having acted contrary to the rules, orders and regulations of the said Commissioners, or to the provisions of the Act." It will therefore be necessary to bear carefully in mind the rules and orders of the Commissioners, as to the mode in which relief is to be given.

22. Those charges must also be disallowed as unfounded which are incurred independently of, or against the directions of, the board of guardians, if your parish is included in a Union, or of a select vestry, or other persons exclusively authorized to give direction in the matter to which the payment relates, or to order relief under the 54th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act; since the only foundation for the charge in such cases is the order of an officer so authorized, the payment must be in obedience to that order, or the charge must be disallowed at the audit.

23. With respect to the charges more commonly found in overseers' accounts, but not authorized by any statute, they are such as follow: namely,—

Charges for the performance of services for which the law has not sanctioned any payment:—The duties of overseers are compulsory, and are required to be performed gratuitously. Those upon whom the office is imposed are legally bound to perform the whole of the duties themselves, and are not entitled to charge for assistance. Any of the following charges are therefore entered illegally where treated as payments for the services of constables, vestry clerks, &c.

Charges for coroners' inquests, and charges properly payable out of the church-rates, must be disallowed, as unfounded charges upon the poor-rates; so also

Charges for salaries to overseers, under the title of "permanent overseers."

Charges for the trouble of the overseer or other person in paying county-rates.

Charges for filling up Parliamentary returns (except such charges as are allowed by the 11 Geo. 4 and 1 Will. 4, c. 30, s. 10, for making the population returns).

Charges for loss of time in attending justices or revising barristers.

Charges for dinners, or other illegal charges usually concealed under the head of "expenses of attendance."

Charges for dinners and the entertainments of parish officers, often concealed under the item, "expenses of meetings," or otherwise.

Charges for the extirpation of vermin; for killing birds and badgers.

Charges for marrying paupers; also fees for churching women and christening children, when

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when not receiving relief within a workhouse; likewise excessive charges for tolling bells at paupers' funerals.

Charges for the prosecution of public offences, such prosecutions being in no way incidental to the office of overseer, unless made so by the express provision of some statute.

24. The parish officers who are bound to account for the expenditure of the parish monies, are also bound to account in a proper form. The accounts of any officer, which are not made out conformably to the rules of the Poor Law Commissioners, declaring the manner in which accounts are to be kept, cannot be received.

25. Where a general balance-sheet is prepared, without the requisite detail of dates and expenditure, or where gross items are inserted which may conceal the nature of the individual charges and payments, and thus place impediments in the way of determining whether the receipts be completely accounted for, or whether any of the charges are unfounded or exorbitant, the accounts must be disallowed; and no items named "sundries," "miscellaneous," or "incidental expenses," can be admitted, without the whole of the details, included under those heads, being first fully explained on the face of the account.

26. You must also be prepared to prove that the regulations of the Commissioners, for giving notice to the rate-payers, have been observed, and that proper opportunities have been afforded to all who choose to examine the accounts; and you must also be prepared to verify, upon oath, the accuracy of all your charges, if required to do so.

You are requested to transfer this communication to your successors in office.

By order of the Board of Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales,

Edwin Chadwick, Secretary.

— No. 6. —

Instructional Letter to Auditors, on the Mode of performing their Duties.

No. 6.
Duties of Auditors.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House, 25 June 1836.

Although the order for keeping, examining and auditing the accounts issued to your Union contains a general outline of your duties as auditor, yet as it is impossible, in an instrument of that nature, to convey such detailed explanations as are necessary for the due understanding of the subject, the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales deem it right to address to you this communication, with the view of relieving you from those doubts and difficulties which (from the various letters of inquiry and applications for information received by the Commissioners) appear to have embarrassed several of the auditors in the performance of their duties.

The Commissioners were well aware that the introduction of a strict and efficient system of auditing the accounts connected with the relief of the poor, in lieu of the annual examination by the magistrates, which from unavoidable circumstances has in many cases been of a formal nature, might expose the parties bound to account to some personal loss in consequence of payments made by them, which, although not authorized by law, had the sanction of usage, and which from having uniformly been made through a long course of years, might have appeared to be both legal and necessary. The Commissioners accordingly directed the enclosed instructional letter* to be transmitted, previous to the commencement of the last quarter, to all parochial and Union officers bound to account, containing full information as to the description of the expenditure which they are by law authorized to continue. To this letter they request your particular attention, as it will serve also for your own guidance as to the monies which it will be your duty to see brought to account; and likewise as to the description of the charges which you will be bound to disallow.

* Namely, the foregoing Letter, No. 5.

I. The first step, as a preliminary to the audit, will be to forward a notice to the Union officers for the production of the accounts; and also to direct the clerk of the Union to cause notice to be served on the several parish officers of the parishes included in the Union, who are still bound to account.

II. These notices should be sent or served six clear days previous to the respective days which you shall appoint for the audit of the Union and parochial accounts respectively. You should ascertain also that notice of the day appointed for the audit of the Union accounts has been affixed to the door of the workhouse, and that the Union ledger, and the abstract of the Union accounts, have been left open in the board room of the guardians for the inspection of the rate-payers.

III. When the accounts are submitted to you, it will be your duty to see that they are made out in the form prescribed by the Commissioners. You will observe that by the before-mentioned order for keeping, examining and auditing accounts, it is directed that the clerk to the board of guardians shall, at the common charge of the Union, provide the requisite books and forms of accounts. Where proper books have not been provided, you will give instructions for immediately supplying the deficiency, and if you deem it necessary you will report the omission to this office; and where the accounts have been erroneously entered, you will take measures for the prevention of the irregularity in future. You will bear in mind always, that a main part of your duty as an auditor will be to examine, as part of the accounts, all returns or books ordered to be kept as a record of any operations or matters which relate to the management of the relief. You will therefore examine the

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pauper description lists; the medical relief lists; the register of sickness and mortality to see that they are correctly made out, observing that these accounts are to be kept to show the main facts upon which relief is given, and serve as the justification of the officer and the board of guardians in granting relief, and also as a record of the treatment given. You will also see that in the quarterly Union abstracts, the quantities as well as the qualities, and the prices of the goods supplied, are correctly stated, and returned to the Commissioners. The officers will be responsible for any essential mis-statement contained in these accounts.

IV. Having ascertained that the necessary preliminaries and forms have been observed, you will enter upon an examination of the accounts in detail. In order to facilitate such examination the Commissioners have to offer to you the following instructions and explanations; and first, as respects the parochial accounts: in the parochial as well as in the Union accounts you will ascertain that all sums which ought to be received, and all sums which have been actually received, are duly accounted for; and that all that is stated to have been expended has actually been expended; and you will determine whether the actual expenditure is truly stated, and has been made in conformity to the law.

V. You will observe that it forms no part of your duties as auditor to determine questions as to the proportions or equality of the assessment, the justices at sessions being the proper judges to decide on such points.

VI. After the examination of the rate books and the collectors' accounts, you will next call for the terriers of lands and inventories of stock, and see that the income from those sources, if applicable to parish purposes, is properly brought to account. You will also examine the pauper description lists for the cases of those to whom relief has been given by way of loan, as well as of persons bound to contribute towards the support of pauper relations, and ascertain the amount of arrear, and the amount recovered, of this class of payments.

VII. It is your duty to aid to the utmost in the advancement of a regular systematised and efficient management in parishes and Unions; and it may be considered as evidence of improved management when the minor sources of income, and the outlets of expenditure (which have hitherto been most frequently overlooked), are found to be vigilantly examined and secured. *See* paragraph 13 of the Instructional Letter to Parish Officers.

VIII. In examining the accounts of the relieving officers you will not pass charges for relief given to any person whom the guardians did not previously authorize the officers to relieve, or the relief which the guardians did not confirm after it was given.

IX. In auditing this description of accounts, you will keep constantly in view the orders of the Commissioners for regulating the mode in which relief may be given to the various classes of paupers. You will examine the pauper description lists, to ascertain how far the descriptions are truly and completely entered by the proper officer; and you will then compare them with the statements of the amount of relief actually given, and especially examine the cases of emergency, and the alleged grounds of deviation from the prescribed and ordinary mode of administering relief, if such shall occur.

X. As regards casual relief, from the facilities arising from neglect, consequent on the trivial nature of the items when viewed separately, and from the too easy admission of overcharges as mistakes, considerable frauds have been heretofore committed in this description of expenditure. You will therefore let no such class of items pass without due inquiry and investigation.

XI. When you find that the relief which has been given to a pauper of any class has been given in contravention of the orders and regulations of the Commissioners, you are bound to disallow such relief.

XII. In examining the accounts of the master of the workhouse, you will ascertain that all the goods have been duly ordered; and you will compare the quantities of provisions consumed with the number of paupers actually in the workhouse at different periods of the quarter, as shown in the admission and discharge book; and you must allow no charge to pass in respect of any pauper who was not regularly admitted.

XIII. With regard to the books of the medical officer, you will have to consult them chiefly in order to see that the descriptions of the maladies of the paupers in the relieving officer's books are correct, and that the allowances of wine and diet or other special relief for the sick appearing in the books of the relieving officer or the master of the workhouse, were duly sanctioned by the medical officer, and approved by the guardians.

XIV. You will check the several chief accounts in the manner following: The out-relief account in the ledger, by comparing it with the subsidiary books of the relieving officer, and the weekly minutes of the settlement of the same in the minute book of the board of guardians; the in-maintenance account, by comparing it with the subsidiary relief lists and provision book of the master of the workhouse, and the weekly minutes of the settlement of the same in the minute book, and with the clothing account in the ledger; the establishment charges, by comparing all salaries and other payments necessary to be sanctioned by the Poor Law Commissioners with their orders thereon, and with the minutes of the guardians, and the bills and vouchers applicable thereto; the treasurer's account, with the minute book, and the several checks directed therein to be drawn.

XV. Where the clerk is an attorney and brings in a bill for professional services, which he considers not to be expressly or impliedly remunerated by his salary, you must refer to the terms of his engagement as to his claim to such extra remuneration, for any other expenditure than his costs out of pocket. If the terms of his engagement do not include his professional services, you must regard him first solely in his capacity of clerk, and allow no extra charge for any work or services which the clerk if he had not been a professional

man

man might have performed; and then you must consider him in his professional capacity as a person unconnected with the Union, and require that the board's authority be produced for the undertaking of the proceedings or other business which are the subject of the charge, and which would not come within his general duty as clerk.

XVI. Where the law has made an exemption from any charge in favour of the rate-payers, the advantage of the exemption should not be allowed to be lost through the negligence or inadvertence of the officers. Thus the appointments of paid officers of the Union; and all instruments made in pursuance of the orders of the Commissioners are exempted from stamp duty by the 86th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, as are indentures of parish apprentices by the Stamp Act.

XVII. In carrying through the audit, you will bear in mind that clearness and apparent completeness is not a proof of truth in the accounts; and whilst you pass no obscurity in them without investigation, you should not pass even an orderly stated account on trust; but should from time to time select items, indiscriminately or otherwise, from each class of charges, and ascertain their reality and correctness.

XVIII. You will observe generally, whether the items which you collate in the accounts intended to check each other, have reference to the same subject; and whether the dates, names, persons, places and other circumstances, properly correspond.

XIX. In the course of the detailed examination, you should note down in writing every error in casting; every erasure which tends to throw suspicion upon particular charges, items or vouchers; every deficiency or irregularity in the vouchers, or in the general correctness and truth of the transactions, together with any deviation from the orders of the Commissioners, or the provisions of the law, and any expenditure of an unusual or exceptionable description.

XX. Any doubts which you may deem of sufficient importance, you may refer to the Poor Law Commissioners, or to their Assistant Commissioner, who will give you their opinion and advice upon the subject.

XXI. The amount of all disallowances and surcharges must be charged against the person accounting; and should there not be a balance to cover the amount in the current quarter, the difference may be carried forward against him in the succeeding quarter's account. But, ordinarily, it should be required to be paid at the time; and if not paid, it will be your duty to report the same to the Commissioners, and under their directions to take proceedings for recovering the amount, in the same manner as penalties under the Poor Law Amendment Act.

XXII. Where it appears to you that the accounts of any paid officer are fraudulent, or so far incompletely kept, from negligence or wilfulness, as to prove his incompetency, it will be your duty immediatey to report the circumstances to the Commissioners.

XXIII. In order to illustrate the routine of an audit, the following specimens are given of the vouchers and evidence required to sustain a few items of charge.

ITEMS OF CHARGES.	VOUCHERS, &c. REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE ITEMS.
1. Buildings on account of the Union or Parish.	Resolution of board of guardians thereon. The Poor Law Commissioners' order or sanction. Copy of the contract with the builder, &c., and the plan. The surveyors' certificate of the work executed, and that it has been done to his satisfaction. The minute of the board of guardians to the same effect, at the close of the quarter.
2. Furniture - - - - - -	Besides the usual authorities and vouchers, call for the inventory, and see that the articles are duly inserted; if necessary, trace or require them to be pointed out.
3. Law expenses - - - - -	The board's direction to the attorney. The attorney's bill, (taxed, if taxable, by the proper officer.) The board's order to pay the bill. The receipt in full of all demands respecting the subject-matter.
4. Bread made and consumed - -	Compare the quantities of flour or wheat purchased, with the proportion of bread produced.
5. Articles sold - - - - - -	Compare the cash accounts with the store accounts.
Articles destroyed, lost or wasted -	Require a certificate or proof of the destruction, loss or waste.
6. Salaries of officers and servants of the Union	Their appointment by the board of guardians, and the sanction of the board of the Poor Law Commissioners.

Appendix (A.)
No. 6.
Duties of Auditors.

XXIV. If there be an increase of the number of any class of paupers, or in any branch of the expenditure, you will report thereon, and state the cause of it, as far as you can ascertain, for the information of the Commissioners; as also on any decrease arising from any peculiar occurrence within the Union. You will likewise be pleased to report to them any improvements of which the mode of transacting the business of the Union may appear to you to be susceptible; and generally on any matters connected with the state of pauperism in the Union, or in the district in which it is situate.

I have the honour to be, sir, your very obedient servant,

To the Auditor of the ——— Union. *Edwin Chadwick*, Secretary.

— No. 7.—

Circular Letter relative to Workhouse Dietaries.

No. 7.
Workhouse Dietaries.

Sir,

The following dietaries, numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, have been used in different parts of England, and all of them have been proved to be sufficient in quantity, and perfectly unexceptionable as to the nature of the provisions specified in each.

These dietaries are now offered to boards of guardians, to select from them that one which appears to be the best adapted for each particular Union.

In making this selection, especial reference must be had to the usual mode of living of the independent labourers of the district in which the Union is situated, and on no account must the dietary of the workhouse be superior or equal to the ordinary mode of subsistence of the labouring classes of the neighbourhood.

Want of attention to this essential point has been the cause of much evil, by too frequently exhibiting the pauper inmates of a workhouse as fed, lodged and clothed in a way superior to individuals subsisting by their own honest industry, thereby lessening the stimulus to exertion, and holding out an inducement to idle and improvident habits.

The board of guardians, after they have made a selection of the dietary most suitable to the circumstances of their Union, will notify the fact to the Poor Law Commissioners, specifying the number of the dietary so selected, and the Commissioners will then issue the same under seal, and thus render its observance imperative.

By order of the Board,

To the Clerk of the Board of Guardians of the ——— Union. *Edwin Chadwick*, Secretary.

No. 1.—DIETARY for Able-bodied Men and Women.

		BREAKFAST.		DINNER.				SUPPER.		
		Bread.	Gruel.	Cooked Meat.	Potatoes.	Soup.	Suet, or Rice Pudding.	Bread.	Cheese.	Broth.
		oz.	pints.	oz.	lbs.	pints.	oz.	oz.	oz.	pints.
Sunday	Men	6	1½	5	½	-	-	6	-	1½
	Women	5	1½	5	½	-	-	5	-	1½
Monday	Men	6	1½	-	-	1½	-	6	2	—
	Women	5	1½	-	-	1½	-	5	2	—
Tuesday	Men	6	1½	5	½	-	-	6	-	1½
	Women	5	1½	5	½	-	-	5	-	1½
Wednesday	Men	6	1½	-	-	1½	-	6	2	—
	Women	5	1½	-	-	1½	-	5	2	—
Thursday	Men	6	1½	5	½	-	-	6	-	1½
	Women	5	1½	5	½	-	-	5	-	1½
Friday	Men	6	1½	-	-	-	14	6	2	—
	Women	5	1½	-	-	-	12	5	2	—
Saturday	Men	6	1½	-	-	1½	-	6	2	—
	Women	5	1½	-	-	1½	-	5	2	—

Old people of 60 years of age and upwards may be allowed one ounce of tea, five ounces of butter and seven ounces of sugar per week, in lieu of gruel for breakfast, if deemed expedient to make this change.

Children under nine years of age to be dieted at discretion; above nine, to be allowed the same quantities as women.

Sick to be dieted as directed by the medical officer.

No. 2.—GENERAL DIETARY for the Able-bodied.

	BREAKFAST.			DINNER.				SUPPER.		
	Bread.	Cheese.	Butter.	Meat Pudding, with Vegetables *.	Suet Pudding, with Vegetables*.	Bread.	Cheese.	Bread.	Cheese.	Butter.
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
Sunday - Men -	6	1	- -	16	- -	- -	- -	6	1	—
Women	5	- -	½	10	- -	- -	- -	5	- -	½
Monday - Men -	6	1	- -	- -	- -	7	1	6	1	—
Women	5	- -	½	- -	- -	7	1	5	- -	½
Tuesday - Men -	6	1	- -	- -	16	- -	- -	6	1	—
Women	5	- -	½	- -	10	- -	- -	5	- -	½
Wednesday, Men -	6	1	- -	- -	- -	7	1	6	1	—
Women	5	- -	½	- -	- -	7	1	5	- -	½
Thursday Men -	6	1	- -	- -	- -	7	1	6	1	—
Women	5	- -	½	- -	- -	7	1	5	- -	½
Friday - Men -	6	1	- -	- -	16	- -	- -	6	1	—
Women	5	- -	½	- -	10	- -	- -	5	- -	½
Saturday Men -	6	1	- -	- -	- -	7	1	6	1	—
Women	5	- -	½	- -	- -	7	1	5	- -	½

Old people, being all 60 years of age and upwards: the weekly addition of one ounce of tea, and milk or sugar; also an additional meat pudding dinner on Thursday in each week, in lieu of bread and cheese, to those for whose age and infirmities it may be deemed requisite.

Children under nine years of age: bread and milk for their breakfast and supper, or gruel when milk cannot be obtained; also such proportions of the dinner diet as may be requisite for their respective ages.

Sick: whatever is ordered for them by the medical officer.

* The vegetables are extra, and not included in the weight specified.

No. 3.—DIETARY for Able-bodied Paupers.

	BREAKFAST.		DINNER.					SUPPER.	
	Bread.	Gruel.	Cooked Meat.	Potatoes or other Vegetables.	Soup.	Bread.	Cheese.	Bread.	Cheese.
	oz.	pints.	oz.	lb.	pints.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
Sunday - - - Men -	8	1 ½	- -	- -	- -	7	2	6	1 ½
Women	6	1 ½	- -	- -	- -	6	1 ½	5	1 ½
Monday - - - Men -	8	1 ½	- -	- -	- -	7	2	6	1 ½
Women	6	1 ½	- -	- -	- -	6	1 ½	5	1 ½
Tuesday - - - Men -	8	1 ½	8	¾	- -	- -	- -	6	1 ½
Women	6	1 ½	6	¾	- -	- -	- -	5	1 ½
Wednesday - - Men -	8	1 ½	- -	- -	- -	7	2	6	1 ½
Women	6	1 ½	- -	- -	- -	6	1 ½	5	1 ½
Thursday - - Men -	8	1 ½	- -	- -	1 ½	6	- -	6	1 ½
Women	6	1 ½	- -	- -	1 ½	5	- -	5	1 ½
Friday - - - Men -	8	1 ½	- -	- -	- -	7	2	6	1 ½
Women	6	1 ½	- -	- -	- -	6	1 ½	5	1 ½
			Bacon.						
Saturday - - - Men -	8	1 ½	5	¾	- -	- -	- -	6	1 ½
Women	6	1 ½	4	¾	- -	- -	- -	5	1 ½

Old people of 60 years of age and upwards may be allowed one ounce of tea, five ounces of butter, and seven ounces of sugar per week, in lieu of gruel for breakfast, if deemed expedient to make this change.

Children under nine years of age to be dieted at discretion; above nine, to be allowed the same quantities as women.

Sick to be dieted as directed by the medical officer.

No. 4.—DIETARY for Able-bodied Paupers of both Sexes.

	BREAKFAST.		DINNER.					SUPPER.	
	Bread.	Gruel.	Pickled Pork, or Bacon, with Vegetables.	Soup.	Bread.	Meat Pudding, with Vegetables.	Rice or Suet Pudding, with Vegetables.	Bread.	Cheese.
	oz.	*pints.*	*oz.*	*pints.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*oz.*
Sunday - - - Men -	8	1 ½	- -	2	6	- -	- -	6	2
Women	6	1 ½	- -	1 ½	5	- -	- -	5	1 ½
Monday - - - Men -	8	1 ½	- -	- -	- -	- -	12	6	2
Women	6	1 ½	- -	- -	- -	- -	10	5	1 ½
Tuesday - - - Men -	8	1 ½	- -	2	6	- -	- -	6	2
Women	6	1 ½	- -	1 ½	5	- -	- -	5	1 ½
Wednesday - - Men -	8	1 ½	6	- -	- -	- -	- -	6	2
Women	6	1 ½	5	- -	- -	- -	- -	5	1 ½
Thursday - - Men -	8	1 ½	- -	- -	- -	- -	12	6	2
Women	6	1 ½	- -	- -	- -	- -	10	5	1 ½
Friday - - - Men -	8	1 ½	- -	2	6	- -	- -	6	2
Women	6	1 ½	- -	1 ½	5	- -	- -	5	1 ½
Saturday - - - Men -	8	1 ½	- -	- -	- -	12	- -	6	2
Women	6	1 ½	- -	- -	- -	10	- -	5	1 ½

The vegetables are not included in the weight specified, which is for the meat when cooked.

If it be thought desirable, half an ounce of butter may be given to the women in lieu of cheese, for supper.

Old people of 60 years of age and upwards may be allowed one ounce of tea, five ounces of butter, and seven ounces of sugar per week, in lieu of gruel for breakfast, if deemed expedient to make this change.

Children under nine years of age to be dieted at discretion; above nine, to be allowed the same quantities as women.

Sick to be dieted as directed by the medical officer.

No. 5.—DIETARY for Able-bodied Men and Women.

	BREAKFAST.		DINNER.						SUPPER.		
	Bread.	Gruel or Porridge	Cooked Meat.	Vegetables.	Soup.	Boiled Rice or Suet Pudding	Bread.	Cheese.	Bread.	Potatoes.	Cheese.
	oz.	*pints.*	*oz.*	*lb.*	*pints.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*lb.*	*oz.*
Sunday - - - Men -	7	1 ½	5	¾	—	—	—	—	7	- -	1 ½
Women	6	1 ½	5	¾	—	—	—	—	6	- -	1 ½
Monday - - - Men -	7	1 ½	—	—	1 ½	—	7	—	- -	¾	—
Women	6	1 ½	—	—	1 ½	—	6	—	- -	¾	—
Tuesday - - - Men -	7	1 ½	—	—	—	14	—	—	7	- -	1 ½
Women	6	1 ½	—	—	—	12	—	—	6	- -	1 ½
Wednesday - - Men -	7	1 ½	—	—	—	—	7	2	- -	¾	—
Women	6	1 ½	—	—	—	—	6	2	- -	¾	—
Thursday - - Men -	7	1 ½	5	¾	—	—	—	—	7	- -	1 ½
Women	6	1 ½	5	¾	—	—	—	—	6	- -	1 ½
Friday - - - Men -	7	1 ½	—	—	1 ½	—	7	—	- -	¾	—
Women	6	1 ½	—	—	1 ½	—	6	—	- -	¾	—
Saturday - - - Men -	7	1 ½	—	—	—	—	7	2	- -	¾	—
Women	6	1 ½	—	—	—	—	6	2	- -	¾	—

Old people, of 60 years of age and upwards, may be allowed one ounce of tea, five ounces of butter, and seven ounces of sugar per week, in lieu of gruel for breakfast, if deemed expedient to make this change.

Children under nine years of age, to be dieted at discretion; above nine, to be allowed the same quantities as women.

Sick to be dieted as directed by the medical officer.

No. 6.—DIETARY for Able-bodied Paupers.

	BREAKFAST.			DINNER.						SUPPER.			
	Bread.	Cheese.	Butter.	Boiled Meat.	Potatoes	Yeast Dumpling.	Suet Pudding	Bread.	Cheese.	Bread.	Cheese	Butter.	Broth.
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	pints.
Sunday - Men -	6	1	–	–	–	–	16	–	–	6	1	–	–
Women	5	–	½	–	–	–	12	–	–	5	–	½	–
Monday - Men -	6	1	–	–	–	–	–	6	1	6	1	–	–
Women	5	–	½	–	–	–	–	6	1	5	–	½	–
Tuesday - Men -	6	1	–	4	12	5½	–	–	–	6	–	–	1
Women	5	–	½	4	12	5½	–	–	–	5	–	–	1
Wednesday Men -	6	1	1	–	–	–	–	6	1	6	1	–	–
Women	5	–	½	–	–	–	–	6	1	5	–	½	–
Thursday - Men -	6	1	–	4	12	5½	–	–	–	6	–	–	1
Women	5	–	½	4	12	5½	–	–	–	5	–	–	1
Friday - Men -	6	1	–	–	–	11	–	–	–	6	1	–	–
Women	5	–	½	–	–	11	–	–	–	5	–	½	–
Saturday - Men -	6	1	–	–	–	–	–	6	1	6	1	–	–
Women	5	–	½	–	–	–	–	6	1	5	–	½	–

Old people, being all 60 years of age and upwards; the weekly addition of one ounce of tea, and milk or sugar to those for whose age and infirmities it may be deemed requisite.

Children under nine years of age: bread and milk for their breakfast and supper, or gruel when milk cannot be obtained; also such proportions of the dinner diet as may be requisite for their respective ages.

Sick, whatever is ordered for them by the medical officer.

— No. 8. —

LETTER to the Right Honourable Lord *John Russell*, on the subject of the Religious Instruction of the Inmates of Workhouses.

No. 8. Religious Instruction of Inmates of Workhouses.

My Lord, Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House, 4 Feb. 1836.

We have had under our consideration the letter referred to us by your Lordship's direction, in which the writer, Mr. Copeland, desires to be informed whether there is any obstacle in the way of a respectable Dissenting minister, who offers voluntarily to give an address to the poor inmates of the workhouse, putting his benevolent design into practice, provided it meets with the consent of the majority of the board of guardians.

In answer to this inquiry, we beg leave to point out that there is nothing in the Act which it is our duty to administer, or in the rules issued by us for the management of workhouses, which will prevent the Rev. William Wilkins, who appears to be a minister of a congregation of Independents (provided he is duly licensed), from affording religious assistance to any of the inmates of the workhouse who may require the same, and who are also of the same religious persuasion with himself; and this explanation (*mutatis mutandis*) applies equally to the Rev. John Kershaw, M. A., who is stated to be a Baptist minister.

On this subject the Commissioners are desirous of drawing your Lordship's attention to the provisions of the 19th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and also to the directions contained in the rules and regulations issued for the management of the workhouse of the Abingdon Union, in which the Commissioners have endeavoured to give effect to the abovementioned section of the statute.

For the sake of easier reference copies and extracts of the passages alluded to are hereto annexed.* * p. 60.

It appears to us that paupers, living within the walls of a workhouse, have a right to claim to be protected from all annoyance on account of their religious belief. They are so situated as to be deprived of the means of defending themselves against intrusion, which a man living in his own cottage is fortunate enough to possess.

To place any one under circumstances in which he cannot but be present at, and in some degree take a share in, the forms of religious worship which are not consistent with his own belief, is evidently an undue breach of religious liberty.

This is peculiarly evident with respect to Roman catholics, whose clergy maintain and enforce among their flocks, to its fullest extent, the rule, *Nulla communio in sacris cum hereticis.*

Appendix (A.)

No. 8.
Religious Instruction of Inmates of Workhouses.

That Roman catholics should be placed in a situation in which they could not easily avoid forming part of a protestant congregation, is evidently improper. It would, we think, in like manner, and by a strict parity of reasoning, be improper also that members of the Church of England, Unitarians, Baptists, Wesleyans or Independents should be either induced or constrained to join in a form of worship which is not that of their own religious community.

The Commissioners, therefore, in the detailed rules they have issued for the management of workhouses, require that, on admission into a workhouse, each pauper should be called on to declare to what denomination of Christians he or she belongs, that, on application to the master of the workhouse, he should have the means of communicating with a licensed minister of his own persuasion, either for the purpose of religious consolation or the instruction of his children. But these interviews are not permitted to take place in the presence of persons who profess a different religious creed, or use a different form of religious worship.

The enforcement of these regulations rests on the main fundamental principle, that the master of the workhouse is not to admit persons into the workhouse without they have actual and necessary business there; and the minister of any religious persuasion would necessarily be excluded without his admission was in exact conformity with the foregoing regulations.

We think it our duty to add, that the law enables us to make provision for reading prayers and the performance of Divine service within a workhouse according to the forms of the Church of England, as for this purpose a chaplain may be provided with a salary.

In this arrangement the same principle appears to be followed out with respect to a workhouse which prevails with reference to the established church throughout the country; but though not at liberty to provide the means of Divine worship for any class of Dissenters, we have anxiously established such regulations as, in all cases in which we have issued workhouse regulations, will exempt all persons who dissent from the Church from a compulsory compliance with its form of worship.

We have, &c.

(signed) *T. Frankland Lewis.*
John G. S. Lefevre.
George Nicholls.

To the Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Annex to the above Letter.

COPY of 19th Section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and of Articles 23, 25 and 33, (3d Section), of Orders and Regulations to be observed in the Abingdon Union.

"19. And be it further enacted, That no rules, orders or regulations of the said Commissioners, nor any bye-laws at present in force or to be hereafter made, shall oblige any inmate of any workhouse to attend any religious service which may be celebrated in a mode contrary to the religious principles of such inmate, nor shall authorize the education of any child in such workhouse in any religious creed other than that professed by the parents or surviving parent of such child, and to which such parents or parent shall object, or, in the case of an orphan, to which the godfather or godmother of such orphan shall so object: provided also, that it shall and may be lawful for any licensed minister of the religious persuasion of any inmate of such workhouse, at all times in the day, on the request of such inmate, to visit such workhouse for the purpose of affording religious assistance to such inmate, and also for the purpose of instructing his child or children in the principle of their religion."

23d article of the orders and regulations to be observed in the workhouse of the Abingdon Union:

"No person shall be allowed to visit any pauper in the workhouse, except by permission of the master, and subject to such conditions and restrictions as the board of guardians may direct, provided that the interview shall always take place in the presence of the master or matron, and in a room separate from the other inmates of the workhouse, unless in case of sickness: provided also, that any licensed minister of the religious persuasion of any inmate of such workhouse, at all times in the day, on the request of such inmate, may visit such workhouse for the purpose of affording religious assistance to such inmate, and also at all reasonable times for the purpose of instructing his child or children in the principles of their religion, such religious assistance and such instruction being strictly confined to inmates who are of the religious persuasion of such licensed minister and to the children of such inmates, and not so given as to interfere with the good order and discipline of the other inmates of the establishment."

25th article of the orders and regulations to be observed in the workhouse of the Abingdon Union:

"Divine service shall be performed every Sunday in the workhouse, at which all the paupers shall attend, except the sick, and the young children, and such as are too infirm to do so, and except also those paupers who may object so to attend on account of their professing religious principles differing from those of the Church of England."

33d article of the orders and regulations to be observed in the workhouse of the Abingdon Union, (3d section):

"To read prayers to the paupers before breakfast and afters upper every day, or cause them to be read, at which all the inmates must attend; but if any of the paupers shall profess religious principles indisposing them to unite in such service, they are to be permitted to sit apart, and not to be compelled to join in the same."

—No. 9.—

FORM of AMENDED ORDER for the Declaration of a Union in a Rural District, and the Election of a Board of Guardians.

[*The words in italic are filled up as the case may be.*]

Honiton Union.

IN pursuance of an Act of Parliament passed in the Fourth or Fifth years of the reign of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales," the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, do hereby order and declare, that the parishes and places, the names of which, and the city, county or counties wherein they are situate, are specified in the margin of this order, together with all hamlets, tythings, liberties or other sub-divisions, lying within or belonging or adjacent to, any of the said parishes and places, shall, on the *Eighteenth* day of *this instant April* be, and thenceforth shall remain, united for the administration of the laws for the relief of the poor, by the name of the *Honiton* Union, and shall contribute and be assessed to a common fund for purchasing, building, hiring or providing, altering or enlarging any workhouse or other place of reception and relief of the poor of such parishes and places, or for the purchase of any lands or tenements under and by virtue of the provisions of the said Act of or for such Union, and for the future upholding and maintaining of such workhouses or places aforesaid, and the payment or allowance of the officers of such Union, and the providing of utensils and materials for setting the poor on work therein, and for any other expense to be incurred for the common use or benefit, or on the common account of such parishes and places in the proportion of the several sums respectively set opposite to the names of each parish and place in the margin of these presents, such sums having been ascertained by the inquiry of the said Poor Law Commissioners to be the annual average expense incurred by each such parish and place for the relief of the poor belonging thereto, for the three years ending on the 25th day of March next preceding the said inquiry.

And we do hereby further order and declare, that a board of guardians of the poor of the said Union, shall be constituted and chosen according to the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and in manner hereinafter mentioned.

1.	*Honiton*	£. 1,543
2.	*Awliscombe*	205
3.	*Broadhembury*	614
4.	*Branscombe*	575
5.	*Buckerell*	147
6.	*Comb Rawleigh*	170
7.	*Dunkeswell*	189
8.	*Farway*	186
9.	*Feniton*	239
10.	*Gittisham*	113
11.	*Harpford*	119
12.	*Luppit*	365
13.	*Monkton*	99
14.	*Northleigh*	79
15.	*Ottery St. Mary*	1,595
16.	*Plymtree*	207
17.	*Payhembury*	270
18.	*Sheldon*	108
19.	*Salcombe Regis*	258
20.	*Sidbury*	891
21.	*Southleigh*	178
22.	*Sidmouth*	936
23.	*Tallaton*	258
24.	*Up Ottery*	544
25.	*Venn Ottery*	51
26.	*Cotleigh*	83
27.	*Widworthy*	105
28.	*Offwell*	117

In the County of Devon.

I.—*Number and Constituency of Guardians.*

1. The number of the guardians shall be *Thirty-five*; of which number *three* shall be elected for each of the parishes of *Honiton, Ottery St. Mary, and Sidmouth*; *two for the parish of Sidbury*; and *one* for each of the other parishes in the Union.

2. But the same person may be elected guardian for more than one parish, agreeably to sec. 9 of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

II.—*Duration of the Office.*

The guardians first elected will continue in office until the day hereinafter appointed for the annual election of guardians, and thenceforward the said office shall be held for one year; but the same person who may have been a guardian for any past year may be re-elected a guardian for any ensuing year.

III.—*Qualification of Guardians.*

Any person who shall be rated to the poor-rate in some parish in the Union, in respect of hereditaments, of the annual value or rental of not less than *Twenty-five* pounds, and who, within two years next previous to the day of election, shall not have been dismissed from any office in any parish or Union by order of the Poor Law Commissioners, shall be eligible as a guardian for any of the said parishes.

IV.—*Qualification of Voters for Guardians, and Scale of Voters.*

1. Any rate-payer who shall have been rated to the poor-rate in any parish in the Union for the whole year immediately preceding his voting, and shall have paid the parochial rates and assessments made on him for one whole year, as well as those due from him at the time of voting, except those which have been made or become due within the six months immediately preceding such voting, will be entitled, on the election of the guardian or guardians for such parish, to the number and proportion of votes specified in sec. 40 of the Poor Law Amendment Act; that is to say,—

If he be rated or assessed at any sum under 200*l.*, he will have one vote.
If he be rated or assessed at 200*l.* but under 400*l.*, he will have two votes.
And if rated or assessed at 400*l.* or upwards, he will have three votes.

2. Any owner of rateable property, situate within any such parish, who shall have given to one of the churchwardens and overseers thereof, on any day previous to the day on which he shall claim to vote, a statement, in writing, of his name and address, and the description

Appendix (A.)
No. 9.
Declaration of Rural Union, and Election of Guardians, &c.

tion of the property in the parish or place, as owner whereof he claims to vote, will be entitled to have the same number and proportion of votes, on the election of the guardian or guardians for such parish as is provided for inhabitants and other persons by the Parish Vestry Acts, 58 Geo. III., c. 69, and 59 Geo. III., c. 85; that is to say,

If the aggregate amount of the assessment for the time being of any property belonging to such owner in such parish, or on any person or persons in respect of the same to the poor-rate, shall not amount to 50 *l.*, he will have one vote.

If the same shall amount to 50 *l.* and not to 75 *l.*, he will have two votes.

If the same shall amount to 75 *l.* and not to 100 *l.*, he will have three votes.

If the same shall amount to 100 *l.* and not to 125 *l.*, he will have four votes.

If the same shall amount to 125 *l.* and not to 150 *l.*, he will have five votes.

And if the same shall amount to 150 *l.* or upwards, he will have six votes.

3. Any owner who shall be *bonâ fide* an occupier of any such property will be entitled to vote, as well in respect of his occupation as of his being such owner.

4. The Form marked (A.), hereto annexed, may be followed by owners of property, in making such statements of their claims to vote.

5. Any owner of such property may, from time to time, by writing under his hand, appoint any person to vote as his proxy; but such proxy must, previous to the day of election, give to one of the churchwardens and overseers of such parish, a statement, in writing, of the name and address of his principal, and a description of the property in the parish or place, as proxy to the owner whereof he claims to vote; and also an original or attested copy of the writing, appointing him such proxy.

6. The forms marked B 1 and 2, hereto annexed, may be followed by owners of property in appointing proxies, and by such proxies in making claims.

7. The churchwardens and overseers shall enter in the rate-books of such parish, or in some other book, to be from time to time provided for that purpose, the names and addresses of the owners and their proxies, who shall send such statements, and the assessment of the poor-rate on the property, in respect whereof they severally claim to vote.

8. The register or book of the statements of owners who have claimed to vote, and of proxies, may be kept in the form marked C, hereto annexed.

V.—*Days of Election.*

The following shall be the days for the election of guardians:

For the first election of guardians the day of election shall be the *Eighteenth* day of *this instant April.*

For the annual election of guardians the day of election shall be the first Thursday after the 25th day of March in each year.

VI.—*Notice of the Election.*

1. The churchwardens and overseers of every such parish shall fill up and sign, and shall, on or before the *Ninth* day of *this instant April,* affix on the principal door of every church and chapel within such parish, or in such other place as is ordinarily made use of for affixing notices of parochial business, a notice in writing according to the form marked D. hereto annexed, of the first election of guardians, and shall also give such notice in such other mode as may usually have been adopted in the parish for giving notice of parochial business.

2. Of the annual elections the clerk to the board of guardians shall, from year to year, give thirteen whole days' notice, in the form marked E, by an advertisement, to be inserted at the expense of the Union, in some newspaper or newspapers generally circulated in the district wherein the place of meeting of the guardians of such Union shall be situate; but the rest of the proceedings of the annual election shall be conducted by the churchwardens and overseers of the said respective parishes as in the case of the first election.

VII.—*Mode of proposing a Guardian.*

1. Any rate-payer or owner of property in any parish in the Union, being entitled to vote, may propose, as a guardian or guardians for such parish, any person or persons, not exceeding the number to be elected for such parish, having the qualification hereinbefore prescribed, for that office.

2. Any person having such qualification may propose himself for that office.

3. In either of the above-mentioned cases the proposer shall, at least six whole days before the day of election, deliver or cause to be delivered to one of the churchwardens or overseers, a nomination in writing, according to the form marked F. hereto annexed.

VIII.—*Mode of Election.*

1. The churchwardens and overseers of every such parish shall examine, within two days next after the last day upon which the names of the persons proposed as candidates could be delivered in, the nomination papers which have been delivered to them.

2. If any person put in nomination for the office of guardian, shall, by writing under his hand, delivered or sent to such churchwardens and overseers, declare his refusal to execute that office, he shall not be considered to be a candidate for the same.

3. If

3. If the number of candidates, duly qualified, and duly proposed as aforesaid for such parish, shall not exceed the number to be then elected, the candidates so proposed shall be declared duly elected.

4. But if the number of candidates so duly qualified and proposed as aforesaid, shall exceed the number to be then elected, the churchwardens and overseers shall prepare or cause to be prepared a sufficient number of voting papers, according to the form marked G. hereto annexed.

5. Two days at least before the day fixed for the election, the churchwardens and overseers shall deliver or cause to be delivered such voting papers at the houses of those persons and proxies who are entitled to vote, and are resident within such parish.

6. On the day of election the churchwardens and overseers shall call for and collect the said voting papers which have been so delivered.

7. All persons and proxies who are entitled to vote, but are not resident within such parish, and all persons who entitle themselves to vote on or after the day on which such voting papers are delivered, either by delivering such statement as above mentioned, or by paying up arrears of rate or otherwise, shall, on the day of election, apply for voting papers at the place appointed by the churchwardens and overseers for that purpose, (who are hereby required to furnish the same), and having filled up such voting papers, shall deliver them to the churchwardens and overseers, or the person employed by them to collect such voting papers, before noon on the day of election.

8. No person employed in distributing or collecting the voting papers, or otherwise executing these orders, shall canvass the voters for any candidate, or do anything by which the return of any candidate or of any class of candidates, may be unduly influenced.

9. In the afternoon of the day of election the churchwardens and overseers shall add up the votes given in the form prescribed; and the candidate or candidates (as the case may be), having the majority of votes shall be declared duly elected.

10. But in such calculation of votes every person who shall not vote, or shall not comply with the directions herein contained for the giving and returning of votes, shall be omitted.

IX.—*Notice of the Appointment and Return of Guardians.*

The churchwardens and overseers of each such parish and place shall forthwith notify to the guardian or guardians elected the fact of his or their election, by a letter or communication in writing, in the form marked (H.) hereto annexed, signed by them; and shall affix on the principal door of every church and chapel in such parish and place a notice of the guardian or guardians elected, in the Form marked (I.), hereto annexed; and shall also make, to the first meeting of the board of guardians next after such election, a return, in writing, in the Form marked (J.) hereto annexed, of the guardian or guardians so elected.

X.—*Explanation of Terms.*

1. Whenever the signatures of the churchwardens and overseers are required in this order to be subscribed to any notice or other document appertaining in any manner to the said elections, it shall not be necessary that the signatures of more than two of the churchwardens and overseers, or either of them, be subscribed to the same.

2. Whenever the word "parish" is used in this order, it shall be taken to include any township, tything, hamlet or place separately maintaining its poor, and hereinbefore directed to be united.

3. Whenever the day appointed by this order for the performance of any act shall happen to be Sunday or Good Friday, such act shall be performed on the day next following the day so appointed.

Given under the hands and seal of us, the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, this *Fourth* day of *April*, in the year *One thousand eight hundred and thirty-six.*

(L.S.)

(signed) *T. Frankland Lewis,*
J. G. S. Lefevre,
Geo. Nicholls.

THE FORMS ABOVE REFERRED TO.

N. B.—The following Forms, (A.), and (B. 1, 2.), may be followed by owners of property in making their claims to vote, or in appointing proxies, and by such proxies in making their claims, but any other Form to the same effect will be sufficient.

Form (A.)—Owner's Claim to Vote.

To the Curchwardens and Overseers of the parish of This
day of 183
I, of claim to be entitled to vote according to the provisions of the 4th & 5th Will. 4, c. 76, as owner of the property herein described, the whole of which is situate within the parish of viz.
[One house or farm, &c., situate at .]

Appendix (A.)

No. 9. Declaration of Rural Union, and Election of Guardians, &c.

Form (B. 1.)—Appointment of Proxy.

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the parish of This day of 183

I, of being owner of the property hereinafter described, the whole of which is situate in the parish of do hereby appoint of to vote, until the present appointment is revoked, as my proxy, in all cases wherein he may lawfully do so, under the provisions of the 4th & 5th Will. 4, c. 76; and the property of which I am owner, and in respect of which I appoint the said to vote as my proxy, is as follows, viz.:

[One house or farm, &c., situate at .]

Form (B. 2.)—Application of Proxy.

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the parish of This day of 183

I, of having been appointed by of to vote as his proxy, under the provisions of the 4th & 5th Will. 4, c. 76, do hereby claim to vote as such proxy. I herewith transmit to you such my appointment, in the handwriting of, [or signed by the said], [or an attested copy of my appointment, the original of which is in the handwriting of, or signed by the said .]

And the property situate in the parish of in respect of which the said is entitled to vote as owner, and in respect of which I do hereby claim to vote as his proxy, is as follows, viz.:

[One house or farm, &c., situate at .]

And I do hereby require you to enter my name and address as above, and the assessment of the rate for the relief of the poor, the property above described, in the book or books directed by the said Act to be provided for the purpose.

Form (C.)—Book for Registry of Owners of Property and Proxies.

Parish of

No.	Name of Owner.	Address.	Property in respect whereof right to vote is claimed.	No. of Reference to Rate Book.	Aggregate Amount of Assessment.	Name of Proxy.	Address of Proxy.	No.	Date on which Claim received.

We do certify that the above is a full and correct register and entry of the claims to vote of owners of property and proxies in the said parish, and we do declare that all the entries of reference to the rate-book, amount of assessment, number of votes, and dates on which claims were received, are true.

(signed) } Churchwardens.
} Overseers.

Form (D.)—Notice of the First Election.

Union.

Election of guardian of the poor for the of

We, the undersigned, being the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the of do hereby give notice that on the day of we shall, in pursuance of an order and declaration of the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, proceed to the election of guardian of the poor for this to act as member of the board of guardians, to be elected for the Union, which has been declared by the said Commissioners to take place from the day of in this present year.

Qualification

QUALIFICATION OF A GUARDIAN.

[*Here insert a copy or correct abstract of Section III. of the order.*]

QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS.

[*Here insert a copy or correct abstract of Section IV. of the order, Art.* 1. 3. *and* 5.]

TIME FOR PROPOSING GUARDIANS.

Any person entitled to vote may propose a guardian; but he must send his proposal to one of the churchwardens or overseers, in writing, on or before the day of in the following form:—

[*Here insert the form of nomination paper* (*F.*)]

No person can be elected guardian who has not been proposed in the manner above mentioned.

MODE OF VOTING.

In case more candidates shall be duly proposed than the number of guardians to be elected, a voting paper will be left on the day of at the house of every person residing in the who at that time shall be entitled to vote. The votes must be given in writing in such voting papers, which will be called for again on the day of election.

All other persons who, on the day of election, shall be entitled to vote, must, on that day, apply for voting papers to one of the churchwardens or overseers, and must return them filled up before noon of the same day.

Signed by us, this day of 183 .

} Churchwardens.

} Overseers.

Form (E.)—NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL ELECTION OF GUARDIANS OF THE POOR.

——— Union.

The churchwardens and overseers of the several parishes comprised in the above Union, and hereinafter named, will, in pursuance of the order of the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, proceed on the day of to the election of the number of the guardians of the poor set opposite the names of such parishes for the year ending ———

Parish (A.) - - -	10 guardians.
(B.) - - -	5 guardians.
(C.) - - -	3 guardians, &c., as the case may be.

Any person entitled to vote in any of the said parishes may propose, as the guardian or guardians thereof, any number (not exceeding the number to be there elected) of persons who are severally rated to the poor-rate of any parish in the Union in respect of property of the annual value or rental of *l.* The proposal must be written, and must state the names, residences, and callings, of the persons proposed, and the name of the proposer, and must be delivered to one of the churchwardens and overseers of such parish, on or before the day of

Owners of rateable property in such parish, as well as rate-payers, are entitled to vote, provided their names are on the register of owners, or if they send in to the churchwardens and overseers before the day of election their claims to vote, with a statement of their names and address, and a description of their property.

Owners may also vote by proxy; but proxies must make the statements above mentioned for their principals, and transmit to the churchwardens and overseers the originals or attested copies of their appointments.

In case of a contest for the office of guardian in any of the said parishes, the votes will be given in papers to be left by the churchwardens and overseers two days at least before the day fixed for the election, at the houses of those residents of the parish who are then entitled to vote. All residents out of the parish, and all persons who become entitled after that day, must apply to one of the churchwardens and overseers for voting papers on the day of election.

The forms of nomination papers, statements of owners, and appointment of proxy, may be seen and copied by voters at the board room, in the ———

A. B. Clerk to the Board of Guardians.

Appendix (A.)

No. 9. Declaration of Rural Union, and Election of Guardians, &c.

Form (F.)—Nomination Paper.

To the churchwardens and overseers of the parish of

Name of the Person or Persons to be proposed as Guardian or Guardians.	Residence, and Quality or Calling, of the Person or Persons proposed.

I nominate the above to be guardian or guardians for the said parish, for the year ending ———

Signature and address of proposer.

This paper must be delivered to one of the churchwardens or overseers at least six whole days before the day of election.

Form (G.)—Voting Paper.

Voting Paper for the parish of

For the purpose of enabling each rate-payer to give his vote in the most free and deliberate manner, without the loss of his time or the obstruction of his ordinary business, or the other inconveniences usually incurred by attending to give his vote at a polling-booth, at a distance from his home, this voting paper is directed to be left at the voter's dwelling, for one clear day, by the proper officer, who will, by order of the Commissioners acting under the authority of the Poor Law Amendment Act, attend on the day of to receive back the paper, on which the vote must be inscribed hereunder as directed.

The voter will write his initials opposite the name of the persons for whom he votes.

If the proxy votes, he should sign his own name, and state, in writing, the name of the person for whom he is proxy, thus:—M. N. for P. Q.

If the voter cannot write, his mark must be attested by a witness, whose initials must be placed opposite the names of the persons for whom he votes.

Take notice, this paper must be carefully preserved by the voter, as no second paper will be given; when it is filled up, it must be kept ready for delivery to and , the collecting officers, who will call for the same on the day of

No other person can be allowed to receive the voting paper; if it be not ready for the collectors when they call, the votes will be lost; they will also be lost if more than names be returned in the list, with the initials placed opposite thereto. The voter must therefore be careful in placing his initials against those for whom he votes.

Initials of the Voter to the Names of Candidates.	Names of the Persons proposed as Guardians.	Residence and Calling of the Persons proposed.	Names of Proposers.

I vote for the persons in the above list opposite to whose names I have placed my initials.

Signed this day of 183

Form (H.)—Letter to Guardians Elected.

Union.

Sir, day of 183 .

We, the undersigned, being churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the parish of do hereby give notice and declare, that on the day of you were duly proposed as a guardian of the poor of the parish of and that on the day of you were elected such guardian.

(signed)

} Churchwardens.

} Overseers.

Form (I.)

Form (I.)—Notice of the Guardians Elected.

Union.

day of 183 .

We, the undersigned, being churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the parish of do hereby give notice, that resident at *were* proposed as guardian of the poor of the said parish, and that on the day of *were* elected [without opposition, *or* by a majority of the number of votes for the several candidates being as follows, &c. *as the case may be*.]

(signed)

} Churchwardens.

} Overseers.

Form (J.)—Return to the Board of Guardians of the Guardians Elected.

Union.

day of 183 .

We, the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the parish of do hereby certify, that on the day of we affixed a notice for the election of guardians on the principal door of the church in the said parish; and that on the day of were proposed by and that on the day of were elected [without opposition, *or* by a majority of the number of votes for the several candidates being as follows, &c. *as the case may be*], and that on the day of notice of such election was duly given to the guardians elected, and affixed on the church door.

(signed)

} Churchwardens.

} Overseers.

—No. 10.—

LETTER to Overseers accompanying the preceding Order, on the Mode of conducting the Election of the Guardians.

——— Union.

To the Churchwardens and Overseers.

Gentlemen,

Inclosed with this letter is an order from the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, declaring that your parish shall be united with several other parishes, and that a board of guardians shall be elected for the administration of relief to the poor of the Union to which it is to belong.

The duty of conducting the election of the guardian or guardians for your parish is imposed upon you, and the object of the present letter is to instruct you in the discharge of that duty.

You are requested to notice in the order the number of guardians to be elected for your parish (section I.); the qualification prescribed for the office of guardian (section III); the day of the first election (section V.); and the last day on which the nomination of guardians can be sent in. By obtaining these particulars you will be enabled to fill up the blanks in the Form marked (D.), *Notice of the first election of guardians*. This notice must be signed by you, and affixed on the principal door of every church and chapel within your parish on the day mentioned in the order (section VI.), and in other respects this notice must be given in the usual mode of giving notices of parochial business within your parish. Of subsequent elections notice will be given by the clerk of the board of guardians.

Your next duty will consist in receiving the several nomination papers, which you will see by the order (section VII.) are to be delivered to one of you in the prescribed Form, marked (F.), six whole days before the election.

These nominations you are required to examine carefully, within two days next after the last day on which they could be delivered in; you must observe that the columns in the Form are correctly filled up with the names and qualities or callings of some persons as persons proposed, and the names of some persons as proposers. The best criterion or test of the accuracy of this information is its sufficiency to fill up, without alteration or addi-

Appendix (A.)

No. 10.
Mode of conducting the Election of Guardians.

tion, the columns of the voting papers hereinafter mentioned. You must also refer to the rate-book of the parish in which the premises are situate, in order to see that the persons proposed are rated, and you must judge whether the premises in respect of which they are rated and described to be qualified are of the annual value or rental mentioned in the order (section III.) You must also see that the proposers are rate-payers or owners, or proxies to owners of property, entitled to vote in your parish.

If after such examination it should appear that there are no more candidates duly qualified and proposed than there are guardians to be elected, you will not have occasion to resort to the votes of the rate-payers and owners of property in the parish, but the candidate so proposed may be considered duly elected, and you may at once fill up and sign the several notices, and the return of their appointment mentioned in the order (section IX), and hereinafter explained.

If, on the other hand, the number of candidates should exceed the number of guardians to be elected, it will be your next care to fill up voting papers, according to the Form marked (G.), by taking the names, callings and qualifications of the candidates, and the names of their proposers, from the nomination papers. Of these voting papers you will get a sufficient number written or printed, and two days at least before the day fixed for the election, deliver or send one to the house of every person who is entitled to vote, and is resident in the parish; and you must employ a sufficient number of confidential persons to collect punctually and fairly such voting papers on the day of election; but all non-resident voters, and all persons who entitled themselves to vote subsequently to the day on which you deliver the voting papers, must apply to you for voting papers on the day of election, and must return them to you before noon of that day.

In the afternoon of the day of election you should add up the votes given, in the form prescribed for each candidate, and the candidate or candidates having the majority of votes must be considered duly elected.

In the computation of votes you will be guided by the 40th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, the substance of which enactment is inserted in the order (section 4). Owners of property you will observe, as well as rate-payers, are entitled to vote, provided they give to one of you before the day of election a statement in writing of their names and addresses, and the descriptions of the property in the parish as owners whereof they claim to vote; and you are required to enter in the rate-book, or in some other book to be provided for that purpose, the names and addresses of such owners. Owners may also vote by proxy, and persons who are both owners and occupiers may vote as well in respect of ownership as of occupation.

Forms for the book of owners, and for the claims of owners and proxies, are appended to the order, A, B, and C; but claims made in any other form, which will satisfy the meaning of the Act, will be sufficient.

The Commissioners have made an arrangement by which the Union and the separate parishes may be supplied with books of accounts, prepared in the authorized forms, and also with the other documents, through Mr. Charles Knight, the publisher, Ludgate-street, at a considerably cheaper rate than they have been hitherto furnished to the public. But if any of the forms or books, of the same, or of a better quality, can be obtained from any other sources at as low, or at lower rates than those stated in the lists of prices which will be transmitted to you, they may be procured elsewhere.

As soon as may be convenient after you have ascertained the candidate or candidates who had the majority of votes, you should fill up, sign, and send the form of communication of their election, marked H, to be made to such candidate or candidates; you should also fill up, sign, and affix on the church and chapel doors a notice of the guardian or guardians elected, according to the form I; and, lastly, you must make a return to the first meeting of the board of guardians, according to the form marked J, and for the latter purpose one of you should attend at the place where such meeting is to be held.

At the different stages of your proceedings you should meet together, but it will not be necessary for you to call a meeting of your parishioners, the intention of the Poor Law Commissioners being to save them the trouble of a personal attendance in the matter: still you are not prohibited from holding such meeting if you deem it convenient, but it must be fully understood that any nomination of guardians, &c. agreed to thereat will not be valid, unless sent in in due time, and in the prescribed form as above explained.

The same mode of election must be adopted on the day mentioned in the order after the 25th of March, and performed annually on the same day.

You will shortly receive an office copy of the orders and regulations issued by the Poor Law Commissioners for the guidance and government of the board of guardians of the Union when constituted in the administration of relief to the poor; but you will continue to administer such relief in your parish in the accustomed mode (with strict attention however to economy) until the board of guardians, or their relieving officers, shall be prepared to undertake that duty, and even when that arrangement shall be made you will be liable to supply necessaries to poor persons in sudden and urgent cases, as you will see more fully explained in those orders.

Signed by order of the Board of Poor Law Commissioners,

Edwin Chadwick, Secretary.

— No. 11. —

ORDER for the Declaration of a Town Union, and the Appointment of a Returning Officer to conduct the Election of a Board of Guardians.

No. 11. Order for Declaration of Town Union, &c.

[*The words in italic are inserted, as the case may be.*]

The Strand Union.

In pursuance of an Act of Parliament, passed in the fourth and fifth years of the reign of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales," the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales do hereby order and declare, that the parishes and places, the names of which, and the city, county or counties wherein they are situate, are specified in the margin of this order, together with all hamlets, tythings, liberties or other subdivisions, lying within or belonging or adjacent to any of the said parishes and places, shall, on the *twenty-fifth* day of *March next*, be and thenceforth shall remain, united for the administration of the laws for the relief of the poor, by the name of the *Strand Union*, in the county of *Middlesex*; and that a board of guardians of the poor of the said Union shall be constituted and chosen according to the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and in manner hereinafter mentioned.

1. *St. Paul, Covent-Garden.*
2. *St. Mary-le-Strand (part of).*
3. *The Precinct of the Savoy.*
4. *St. Clement Danes (part of).*

In the City and Liberty of Westminster.

5. *St. Mary-le-Strand (part of), called the Duchy of Lancaster.*
6. *St. Clement Danes (part of).*
7. *The Liberty of the Rolls.*

In the County of Middlesex.

I.—*Number and Constituency of Guardians.*

1. The number of the guardians shall be *twenty*, of which number *seven* shall be elected for *that part of the parish of St. Clement Danes which is in the city and liberty of Westminster*; *four for the parish of St. Paul, Covent Garden*; *three for that part of the parish of St. Clement Danes which is in the county of Middlesex, but not in the city and liberty of Westminster*; *two for that part of the parish of St. Mary-le-Strand which is in the city and liberty of Westminster*; *two for the liberty of the Rolls*; *one for that part of St. Mary-le-Strand which is called the duchy of Lancaster*; *and one for the precinct of the Savoy.*

2. But the same person may be elected guardian for more than one parish, agreeably to sec. 38 of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

II.—*Duration of the Office.*

The guardians first elected will continue in office until the day hereinafter appointed for the annual election of guardians, and thenceforward the said office shall be held for one year; but the same person who may have been a guardian for any past year may be re-elected a guardian for any ensuing year.

III.—*Qualification of Guardians.*

Any person, not otherwise disqualified by law, who shall be rated to the poor-rate in some parish in the Union, in respect of hereditaments of the annual value or rental of not less than *Forty pounds*, and who, within two years next previous to the day of election, shall not have been dismissed from any office in any parish or Union by order of the Poor Law Commissioners, shall be eligible as a guardian for any of the said parishes.

IV.—*Qualification of Voters for Guardians, and Scale of Voting.*

1. Any rate-payer who shall have been rated to the poor-rate in any parish in the Union for the whole year immediately preceding his voting, and shall have paid the parochial rates and assessments made on him for one whole year, as well as those due from him at the time of voting, except those which have been made or become due within the six months immediately preceding such voting, will be entitled, on the election of the guardian or guardians for such parish, to the number and proportion of votes specified in sec. 40 of the Poor Law Amendment Act; that is to say,—

If he be rated or assessed at any sum under 200 *l.*, he will have one vote.
If rated or assessed at 200 *l.* but under 400 *l.*, he will have two votes.
And if rated or assessed at 400 *l.* or upwards, he will have three votes.

2. The churchwardens and overseers shall distinguish in their rate-books, or some other book, the name of every rate-payer in their respective parishes who shall have been rated for one whole year previous to such election, and paid the parochial rates and assessments made and assessed upon him for the period of one whole year, and shall also specify the amount of the parochial rates and assessments due from any such rate-payer, and the period for which the same shall have accrued, distinguishing such rates and assessments as shall have been made or become due within six months immediately preceding such election, and shall also specify the number of votes to which each such rate-payer shall be entitled.

Appendix (A.)

No. 11.
Order for Declaration of Town Union, &c.

3. Any owner of rateable property, situate within any such parish, who shall have given to one of the churchwardens and overseers thereof, on any day previous to the day on which he shall claim to vote, a statement, in writing, of his name and address, and the description of the property in the parish, as owner whereof he claims to vote, will be entitled to have the same number and proportion of votes, on the election of the guardian or guardians for such parish, as is provided for inhabitants and other persons, by the Parish Vestry Acts, 58 Geo. 3, c. 69, and 59 G. 3, c. 85; that is to say,—

If the aggregate amount of the assessment for the time being of any property belonging to such owner in such parish, or on any person or persons in respect of the same to the poor-rate, shall not amount to 50 *l.*, he will have one vote.
If the same shall amount to 50 *l.* and not to 75 *l.*, he will have two votes.
If the same shall amount to 75 *l.* and not to 100 *l.*, he will have three votes.
If the same shall amount to 100 *l.* and not to 125 *l.*, he will have four votes.
If the same shall amount to 125 *l.* and not to 150 *l.*, he will have five votes.
And if the same shall amount to 150 *l.* or upwards, he will have six votes.

4. Any owner who shall be *bonâ fide* an occupier of any such property, will be entitled to vote, as well in respect of his occupation as of his being such owner.

5. The form marked A, hereunto annexed, may be followed by owners of property, in making such statements of their claims to vote.

6. Any owner of such property may from time to time, by writing under his hand, appoint any person to vote as his proxy; but such proxy must, previous to the day of election, give to one of the churchwardens and overseers of such parish a statement, in writing, of the name and address of his principal, and a description of the property in the parish, as proxy to the owner whereof he claims to vote; and also an original or attested copy of the writing, appointing him such proxy.

7. The forms marked B. 1 and 2, hereto annexed, may be followed by owners of property in appointing proxies, and by such proxies in making their claims.

8. The churchwardens and overseers shall enter in the rate-books of such parish, or in some other book to be from time to time provided for that purpose, the names and addresses of the owners and their proxies, who shall send such statements, and the assessment of the poor-rate on the property, in respect whereof they severally claim to vote.

9. The register or book of the statements of owners who have claimed to vote, and of proxies, may be kept in the form marked C, hereto annexed.

V.—*Appointment of Returning Officer.*

1. The churchwardens and overseers of the several parishes in the Union shall, on the *Tenth* day of *March next*, previous to the first election, and on the day fortnight preceding the day appointed for every annual election, meet together at *the vestry-room of the parish of St. Clement Danes*, at *eleven o'clock in the forenoon*, for the purpose of electing and nominating, by the majority of votes of the persons then present, a barrister of not less than *Five* years' standing at the bar, to be the returning officer at the ensuing election of the guardians for such parishes; and shall submit to the Poor Law Commissioners for their consideration, the name of the barrister so nominated, who, upon the approval of the Commissioners, shall be the returning officer at such election.

2. The returning officer shall have power to appoint a competent number of persons to assist him in collecting the votes, and in conducting and completing the election, in conformity to this order. And the persons so appointed shall obey all the directions which may be given by the returning officer for the execution hereof.

3. The returning officer and his assistants shall be paid the fees or compensation for their services by the churchwardens and overseers out of the poor-rates of the said parishes, and such parishes shall contribute thereto in the proportion of their average expenditure, and the amount of such fees and compensation shall be regulated by the Poor Law Commissioners as occasion may arise.

4. The churchwardens and overseers, and also all other officers of the said several parishes, shall attend such returning officer at such times as he shall require their attendance, until the completion of such election, and they shall aid him in the progress thereof, and shall produce to him the rate-books of their parishes and the registers of owners and proxies, together with the claims, statements and proxy papers received by them, and all books and papers relating to the poor-rate.

5. The returning officer shall prepare and sign a notice according to the form marked D. hereto annexed, and insert the same at the common charge of the parishes, as an advertisement in one or more of the London newspapers, for all owners of property in the said parishes to send in previous to the day of election to the churchwardens and overseers:

1st. Their claims to vote at such election, together with the statements required by the Poor Law Amendment Act.
2nd. The appointments of any proxies of such owners.
3rd. A statement of a place of address in the said parish, where voting papers may be received and called for.

And such advertisement shall also state the day of election, the place of nomination, and the last day on which nominations can be sent in.

VI.—*Time and Mode of nominating Candidates for the Office of Guardians.*

1. The day of nomination shall be the *Sixteenth* day of *March next*, and notice in the form marked E., hereto annexed, of such day of nomination shall be given by such returning officer, in the accustomed mode of giving public notice of meetings of the rate-payers in the said parishes, and shall be affixed on the principal door of every church and chapel in the said parishes and at the usual places of giving public notices therein, on the Sunday next preceding the day of nomination, and so that not less than three days shall elapse between the affixing of such notices and the day of nomination.

2. Any owner of property or rate-payer entitled to vote in any parish of the Union, may nominate for the office of guardian thereof, himself or any other person or number of persons (not exceeding the number of guardians to be elected for such parish), possessed of the due qualification for that office.

3. Such nomination paper shall be in the form marked F. hereto annexed; it shall be signed by the owner or rate-payer making the same, and shall be sent before the day of nomination, or at some hour of that day previous to the meeting, to be held as hereinafter mentioned, addressed to the returning officer at the workhouse of such parish, or to the care of the churchwardens and overseers, or of such person or persons as the returning officer may appoint to receive the same. And the returning officer or persons so to be appointed to receive the same shall on the receipt thereof mark thereon a number and date, according to the order and time in which the same shall be received.

4. On the day of nomination the returning officer shall attend at the hour and place to be specified in the notice hereinbefore directed to be given of such day of nomination, and shall, in the presence of such owners of property and of such rate-payers of any of the parishes in the Union as may think fit to attend, declare and take down the names of the persons nominated to the office of guardian for the said several parishes on the several nomination papers which shall have been received by him, and of the owners or rate-payers making the nomination.

5. After such names shall have been so declared and taken down, any owner or rate-payer of any parish of the said Union who shall not have previously nominated any person, may at such meeting nominate himself or any other person, or number of persons not exceeding the number of guardians to be elected for such parish, provided that such nomination be in the form F. hereinbefore prescribed, and be handed at such meeting to the returning officer, who shall hereupon declare the name of each person so nominated, and of the parish for which nominated, and of the owner of property or rate-payer signing in the nomination, and shall take the same down in manner aforesaid.

6. Any owner or rate-payer entitled to vote present at such meeting, may object to the qualification of the person or persons proposed as the guardian or guardians for the parish in which he is entitled to vote, and the returning officer shall hear or decide upon such objection, and retain or strike out the name of the person or persons objected to accordingly.

7. Any person put in nomination for the office of guardian may at such meeting, in person or by writing under his hand, declare his refusal to execute the office of guardian, and thereupon the returning officer shall strike out of the list of candidates the name of every person so refusing.

8. When the nominations shall all have been received, taken down and declared as aforesaid, the returning officer shall sign the lists according to the form marked G., and the lists so signed by him shall be the lists of candidates or persons from whom the guardians of such parishes shall be chosen.

VII.—*Mode of Election.*

1. If upon the declaration of such lists the names of the candidates for the office of guardian, on the list of any parish in the Union, shall not exceed the number of guardians to be elected for such parish, then the persons named in such list shall be deemed to be elected guardians for such parish, and may act in that capacity notwithstanding the full number of guardians for such parish be not completed.

2. But if the names of the candidates in the list for any of the said parishes shall exceed the number of guardians to be elected therein, the returning officer shall, on the 22d day of March next, cause voting papers in the form marked H. to be prepared and filled up at the expense of such parish, and one of such voting papers to be delivered by the collectors of votes, appointed as hereinbefore mentioned, to the address in such parish of each owner or proxy or rate-payer qualified to vote therein.

3. Each voter shall mark his initials opposite to the name or names in his voting paper of the person or persons (not exceeding the number of guardians to be elected in such parish) for whom he intends to vote, and shall sign such voting paper; but if he should mark his initials opposite to the names of more persons than are to be elected in such parish, or if he should not sign such voting paper, his vote shall be wholly void, and shall not be included in the casting up of votes.

4. After the lapse of one clear day from the delivery of the same, the returning officer shall cause such voting papers to be collected in the parish by the collectors in such manner as he shall direct, so that all such voting papers shall be returned to the returning officer in the course of the second day.

5. The returning officer shall on the third, and, if necessary, on the fourth day after the delivery of the voting papers, attend at such place as he shall appoint as aforesaid, and ascertain

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ascertain the accuracy of such votes, by comparing them with the rate-books and the book of registry of claims to vote of owners and their proxies, and by examining such persons as he may see fit, as to the same being given, and as to the voter being qualified according to the provisions of the said Act and of this Order. He shall cast up such of the votes as shall have been duly given, and ascertain the number of votes so given for each person.

6. The persons whom the returning officer shall certify, under his hand and seal, to have the greatest number of votes, shall be deemed to be the elected guardians of such parish for the year ending the 25th day of March 1837, or until other guardians shall be chosen under any order from the Poor Law Commissioners in their room.

7. No person employed in distributing or collecting the voting papers, or otherwise executing these orders, shall canvass the voters for any candidate, or do anything by which the return of any candidate, or of any class of candidates, may be unduly influenced.

VIII.—*Notice of the Appointment and Return of Guardians.*

1. The returning officer shall cause a sufficient number of lists of the elected guardians of all the said parishes to be made, and shall sign and certify the same, and cause one of such lists to be sent to the first meeting of the board of guardians, another of such lists to the office of the Poor Law Commissioners, and shall deliver or cause to be delivered one of such lists to each of the churchwardens and overseers of the said parishes.

2. The returning officer shall affix a notice in the form marked J. hereto annexed, of the guardians elected for the said parishes respectively, upon the principal doors of the churches and chapels, and at the usual places for affixing public notices in such parishes.

3. The returning officer shall also notify to the persons elected as guardians of their respective parishes the fact of their being so elected, and shall for that purpose deliver or send, or cause to be delivered or sent, to such persons respectively, notices in the annexed form K.

4. All the proceedings respecting any such parish herein directed to be taken by the said returning officer, or by the persons whom he shall call to his assistance during the election, shall, so far as may be practicable, be done in the presence of the churchwardens and overseers thereof, or such of them as shall from time to time be in attendance on the returning officer. But the absence of any or all of such churchwardens or overseers shall not invalidate any of the proceedings or acts of the returning officer or persons acting under him; and when the returning officer shall examine and verify the votes given at the election, the proposer of any candidate, and any candidate may, if he see fit, be present also.

IX.—*Explanation of Terms.*

1. Whenever the signatures of the churchwardens and overseers are required in this order to be subscribed to any notice or other document appertaining in any manner to the said election, it shall not be necessary that the signatures of more than two of the churchwardens and overseers, or either of them, be subscribed to the same.

2. Whenever the word "parish" is used in this order, it shall be taken to include any tything, hamlet or place, separately maintaining its poor, and hereinbefore directed to be united.

Given under the hands and seal of us, the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, this *twenty-second* day of *February*, in the year *One thousand eight hundred and thirty-six*.

(L. S.)

(signed) *T. Frankland Lewis.*
John George Shaw Lefevre.
George Nicholls.

THE FORMS ABOVE REFERRED TO.

N. B.—The following Forms (A.) and (B. 1 and 2,) may be followed by Owners of Property in making their claims to vote, or in appointing Proxies, and by such Proxies in making their claims, but any other Form to the same effect will be sufficient.

(A.)—Owner's Claim to Vote.

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the parish of in the county of this day of 183

I, A. B. of No. Street, [describe address (to which Papers, &c. are to be sent) accurately] claim to be entitled to vote according to the provisions of the 4th & 5th Will. 4, c. 76, as owner of the property herein described, the whole of which is situate within the parish of viz.:—

One house situate occupied by C. D.
One house and situate occupied by E. F., and of the house and situate in respect of which I claim to vote, both as owner and of my occupation of the same, according to the provisions of the said Act.

(B. 1.)—

(B. 1.)—Appointment of Proxy.

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the parish of in the county of
this day of 183

I, A. B. of [address] being owner of the property hereinafter described, the whole of which is situate in the parish of do here appoint Y. Z. of [address] to vote, until the present appointment is revoked, as my proxy, in all cases wherein he may lawfully do so, under the provisions of the 4th & 5th Will. 4, c. 76.; and the property of which I am owner, and in respect of which I appoint the said Y. Z. to vote as my proxy, is as follows, viz.:—

One house situate occupied by C. D.
One house and situate occupied by

(B. 2.)—Application of Proxy thereupon.

This day of 183

I, Y. Z. of [state address (to which Papers, &c. are to be sent) accurately] having been appointed by A. B. of to vote as his proxy, under the provisions of the 4th & 5th Will. 4, c. 76, do hereby claim to vote as such proxy. I herewith transmit to you such my appointment, in the hand-writing of or signed by the said A. B., or an attested copy of my appointment, the original of which is in the hand-writing of or signed by the said A. B. And the property situate in the parish of in respect of which the said A. B. is entitled to vote as owner, and in respect of which I do hereby claim to vote as his proxy, is as follows, viz.:

One house situate occupied by
One house and situate occupied by

And I do hereby require you to enter my name and address as above, and the assessment of the rate for the relief of the poor, of the property above described, in the book or books directed by the said Act to be provided for the purpose.

C.—Book for Registry of Owners of Property and Proxies.

Parish of
in the county of }

No.	Name of Owner.	Address.	Place of Address within the Parish where Voting Papers to be received.	Property in respect whereof right to vote is claimed.	Name of Occupier.	No. of reference to Rate Books.	Aggregate Amount of Assessment.	Name of Proxy.	Address of Proxy.	No. of Votes.	Date on which claim received.

We do certify that the above is a full and correct register and entry of the claims to vote delivered to us by owners of property and proxies in the said parish, and we do declare that all the entries of the references to the rate-book, the amount of assessment, the number of votes, and the dates on which the claims were received, are true.

(signed)

}Churchwardens.
}Overseers.

(D.)—Advertisement for Owners of Property to register Claims to Vote and Proxies, at Election for Guardians.

Poor Law Amendment Act.—Election of Guardians of the Poor for the Parishes in the Union, for the year ending 183

The owners of property in the parishes of the above Union, and the proxies appointed to vote for such owners, are hereby informed that, in order to enable them to vote at the election, which is to take place on the day of next, of guardians of the poor for the parish in which their property is situate, it will be necessary that they should send their claims to vote, addressed to the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of such parish, at the workhouse thereof, if any, and if there be no workhouse therein, to the dwelling-house of one of the said churchwardens and overseers, on or before the day of accompanied by a statement, in writing, of their names and addresses, a place of address in such parish where voting papers may be received and called for, and

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the description of property in such parish as owners whereof, or as proxies for such owners, they claim to vote. And every proxy, in addition to such address and description of property, must send the original or an attested copy of the writing appointing him as such proxy; such claims and statements will thereupon be duly entered on the registers of owners of property in such parish, and of their proxies, pursuant to the provisions of the said Act.

And the rate-payers and such owners of property in the said parishes are informed, that the last day on which they can nominate persons to the office of guardian, will be the day of at or previous to the meeting, which will be held on that day at o'clock, at for declaring the names of the candidates for the office of guardian in the said parishes.

Dated this day of

(signed)

Returning Officer.

(E.)—Notice of Day of Nomination.

Union.

Election of Guardians of the Poor of the Parishes in the above Union, for the year ending 183

I do hereby give notice, that any rate-payer or owner of property whose claim to vote shall be duly registered in any of the said parishes, is entitled to nominate any number of persons not exceeding the number of guardians to be elected in such parish, to be guardians of the poor of such parish, for the year ending 183 But such nomination must be in writing, signed by such rate-payer or owner of property, in the form hereunder written, and addressed and sent to me at before the hour of in the morning of or delivered to me at the meeting to be held at in the said Union, at the hour of on that day, being the day and hour appointed for declaring the names of the persons nominated to the said office of guardians.

Dated this day of

(signed)

[*Here insert the Form of Nomination Paper* F.]

Returning Officer.

(F.)—Nomination Paper.

Parish of
in the county of

Name or Names of Persons proposed as Guardian or Guardians.	Residence and Calling of Person or Persons proposed.

I nominate the above to be guardian or guardians for the said parish for the year ending

Signature and Address of Proposer.

(G.)—List of Candidates.

Parish of
in the County of

List of Persons nominated to the Office of Guardian of the Poor of the said Parish for the year ending 183

No. and Order in which received.	Names, Residence, and Calling of Person proposed.	No. of Reference to Rate Books.	Names of Proposers.	Owners or Rate Payers.

I do hereby certify that the above is the list of persons duly nominated to the office of guardian for the year ending 183 and from which list the board of guardians is to be chosen.

(signed)

Returning Officer.

(H.)—Voting Paper.

Voting Paper for the Parish of

[No. of Voting Paper.] [Name and Address of Voter.] [No. of Votes.]

Initials of the Voter to the Names of Candidates.	Names of the Persons proposed as Guardians.	Residence and Calling of the Persons proposed.	Names of Proposers.

I vote for the persons in the above list, opposite to whose names I have placed my initials.

(signed)

If the voter cannot write, his mark must be attested by a witness, whose initials must be placed opposite the names of the persons for whom the votes are given.

If the proxy votes, he should sign his name, and add for whom he is proxy: thus, M. N. for P. Q.

Take Notice, this paper must be carefully preserved by the voter, as no second paper will be given. When it is filled up, it must be kept ready for delivery to and the collecting officers, who will call for the same on the day of

No other person can be allowed to receive the voting paper; if it be not ready for the collectors when they call, the votes will be lost. They will also be lost if more than names be returned in the list, with the initials placed opposite thereto. The voter must therefore be careful in placing his initials against those for whom he votes.

(I.)—Return of the Returning Officer.

Union. Election of Guardians of the Poor.

I do hereby certify, that I caused an advertisement to be inserted in the paper of the day of for owners of property to register claims to vote and proxies, and that on the day of I caused notices of the day of nomination to be affixed on the principal doors of the several churches and chapels of all the parishes in the said Union; and that I held a meeting, pursuant to the said advertisement and notice, at on the day of at for the purpose of declaring the lists of candidates for the office of guardian, in the said several parishes; that the election was conducted in conformity to the order of the Poor Law Commissioners, and that the entries contained in the schedule hereunder-written are true.

Signed this day of

Returning Officer.

Names of Parishes.	Names of Persons proposed as Guardians.	No. of Votes given to each Candidate set opposite his Name.	Names of the Guardians elected for the Parish mentioned in the first Column opposite hereto.

(J.)—Notice of the Guardians elected.

Union. Parish of

I, the returning officer of the Union, do hereby give notice and declare, that of were [or was] on the day of elected guardians [or a guardian] of the poor for the parish of for the year ending [without opposition, *or* by a majority of the numbers and names of the candidates being as follows, *&c. as the case may be.*]

Signed this day of

Returning Officer.

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No. 11 Order for Declaration of Town Union, &c.

(K.)—Letter to the Guardians elected.

Union. Parish of

I, the returning officer of the Union, do hereby give you notice and declare, that on the day of you were duly elected a guardian of the poor for the parish of for the year ending together with [without opposition, *or* by a majority of the numbers and names of the candidates being as follows, *&c. as the case may be.*]

Signed this day of

Returning Officer.

— No. 12. —

No. 12. Consolidated Order for Administration of Relief.

Form of Consolidated Order for the Administration of Relief, issued to Town Unions.

The Strand Union.

In pursuance of the Act of Parliament passed in the Fourth and Fifth Years of the Reign of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in *England* and *Wales*," the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales do hereby order, direct and declare as follows:—

Section I.—General Powers of the Guardians.

The guardians of the poor of the *Strand* Union, in the county of *Middlesex*, which was formed by an order of the said Commissioners, dated the *twenty-second* day of *February* one thousand eight hundred and thirty-*six*, and comprises the several parishes and places named in the margin at the foot of this page *, shall, subject to the powers and authorities in the aforesaid Act given or reserved to justices of the peace and overseers, and to the general powers of the Poor Law Commissioners, have the direction and control within the said Union—

Of all relief to the poor;

Of the building, hiring, providing, altering, improving and enlarging of any workhouse, poor-house or other premises for the reception and maintenance of paupers, and of the hiring or purchasing of land for such workhouse, or for the employment of the paupers;

Of the government and management of such workhouse, premises and land;

Of the making and entering into contracts in all matters relating to the management and relief of the poor;

Of the expenditure for the relief of the poor;

and shall conform to the regulations hereinafter contained.

1. No guardian shall have power to act in virtue of such office, except as a member and at a meeting of the board of guardians, assembled as hereinafter directed, and except with reference to summoning extraordinary meetings of the guardians, and except also as in the aforesaid Act is excepted.

2. The powers and authorities hereby, or by the said Act, granted or vested in the guardians shall and may from time to time be exercised by the major part of such guardians who shall attend at any meeting to be holden as herein directed; but no act of any such meeting shall be valid except for the purpose of adjourning the same, unless three guardians at least shall be present and concur therein.

Section II.—Meetings of the Guardians.

The First Meeting.

1. The first meeting of the guardians shall be held at *the vestry-room of the parish of St. Clement Danes, situate in Pickett-street, Strand,* on the *sixth* day of *April next*, and shall commence at *eleven* o'clock in the forenoon, at which meeting every guardian is hereby required to attend; but if three guardians be present at such first meeting, the non-attendance of the remainder shall not invalidate the proceedings of such meeting.

2. At such first meeting the guardians shall determine upon some fixed day of the week, and some fixed hour, between ten o'clock in the forenoon and four o'clock in the afternoon, and also on some convenient place for holding their future meetings.

3. At such first meeting also, the guardians shall elect out of their number a chairman and a vice-chairman, who shall continue to act in that capacity until the next annual election of the guardians shall take place.

* *St. Paul, Covent Garden*; *St. Mary-le-Strand (part of)*; *the precinct of the Savoy*; *St. Clement Danes (part of), all in the city and liberty of Westminster*; *St. Mary-le-Strand (part of), called the Duchy of Lancaster*; *St. Clement Danes (part of)*; *the liberty of the Rolls, all in the county of Middlesex, but not in the city and liberty of Westminster.*

Weekly Meetings.

4. The guardians shall meet once at the least in every week, for the execution of their duties, on the day and hour, and at the place to be fixed at their first meeting.

5. At each weekly meeting the guardians shall conduct the business in the following order:—

i. They shall read over the minutes of the preceding weekly meeting, and of any extraordinary or adjourned meeting which shall have been held during the preceding week, and shall cause an entry of the same minutes having been so read, to be made in the minute-book.

ii. They shall dispose of such business as may have arisen out of the minutes so read, and give the necessary directions thereon.

iii. They shall examine—

The treasurer's book of receipts and payments;

The collector's book;

The report and accounts of the master and matron of the workhouse;

The report and accounts of the relieving officers;

The report of the medical officers;

The report of the clerk upon the execution of all orders made by the board, and his accounts.

iv. They shall consider and decide upon and give the necessary directions respecting—

All applications for relief made since the last meeting, and

The amount and nature of relief to be given or continued to the paupers whose names are upon the books of the Union until the next weekly meeting, or during such other time as such relief may be deemed to be necessary.

v. They shall hear and consider the application made by any paupers at the existing meeting; but no such application shall be heard unless such paupers shall have applied to the relieving officer for their parish one day at least before such meeting; but the guardians may, if they think fit, require the attendance of any pauper who is capable of attending.

vi. They shall determine the kind of work to be performed by the paupers, either in or out of the workhouse.

vii. They shall give the necessary directions to the churchwardens and overseers of each parish in the said Union for providing such sums as may be requisite for the relief of the poor of the said parish, and for defraying such proportion of the general expenses as shall be lawfully chargeable on such parish.

Adjourned Meetings.

6. The majority of the guardians present at any weekly meeting may, if they think necessary, adjourn the same to the day of the next weekly meeting, or to any other day previous to the next weekly meeting.

7. If three guardians be not present at any weekly or other meeting, the guardian or guardians who are present shall adjourn the same to the day of the next weekly meeting, or to such other day previous to that day as he or they shall think fit; and thereupon the clerk to the guardians shall make an entry in the minute-book of the adjournment, and the cause thereof.

8. If no guardian shall attend, the clerk shall make an entry of such failure of attendance, provided that in either case one hour, and no more, shall be allowed to elapse from the time fixed for the commencement of the meeting before any such entry be made, as is above directed.

Extraordinary Meetings.

9. Any two guardians, by a requisition in writing, according to the Form (A) hereto annexed, may direct the clerk to summon an extraordinary meeting of the guardians. p. 92.

10. If any case of emergency shall arise requiring that a meeting of the guardians should immediately take place, they, or any three of them, shall meet and take such case into consideration, and give order thereon; provided always, that such order shall only be valid and have effect until the next weekly meeting of the guardians.

Notices of Meetings.

11. The clerk shall prepare and sign notices in writing of the first weekly meeting of the guardians, of the adjournment of a weekly or other meeting, and of an extraordinary meeting, according to the Forms (B), (C) and (D) hereto annexed; and two days at least before the day upon which the meeting to which any such notice relates is to take place, shall deliver or send the same to the guardians, or leave the same at their usual places of abode; but it shall not be necessary to give notice of any other than the first of the weekly meetings, nor of any meeting called on an emergency as aforesaid. p. 92, 93.

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Routine of Business.

12. At every meeting the chairman, or in his absence the vice-chairman, shall preside; and if at any meeting the chairman and vice-chairman shall be absent, the guardians present shall elect a chairman of that meeting.

13. All questions at any meeting shall be determined by the votes of the guardians present thereat; and when there shall be an equal number of votes upon any question, including the vote of the presiding chairman, he shall have a casting vote.

14. No stranger shall be permitted to take part in, or to be present at any meeting of the guardians, except persons authorized by law, the officers required, and the members of any other board of guardians permitted or invited to attend such meeting, and except also persons engaged in some matter under the consideration of such meeting, and who shall depart when the consideration of such matter is concluded or postponed.

Section III.—The Officers of the Board.

Enumeration of the Offices.

1. The guardians shall, subject to the approbation of the Poor Law Commissioners, appoint a sufficient number of persons to perform the duties hereinafter specified to belong to each of the following offices:

i. Clerk to the board of guardians.
ii. Master of the workhouse.
iii. Matron of the workhouse.
iv. Medical officer.
v. Relieving officer.
vi. Collector of rates.
vii. Treasurer.
vii. Auditor.

And also, if the guardians shall think fit,

ix. A chaplain.
x. A schoolmaster.
xi. A schoolmistress.
xii. A porter to the workhouse.

And such assistants and servants as the guardians shall deem necessary for the efficient performance of the duties of the several officers above enumerated.

Mode of Appointment.

2. The guardians shall at their first meeting, or within one month thereafter, ascertain and fix proper districts into which the Union shall be divided for general and medical relief, the parishes of the Union which will require a collector of rates, and the number of workhouses which will be required for the purposes of the Union, and shall direct an advertisement to be published for candidates to tender for the office of the medical officer or officers, the relieving officer or officers, the collector or collectors; and whenever such officers shall be appointed, a schoolmaster and schoolmistress; and such appointments shall be made at the next meeting of the guardians, after such advertisement shall have been published, or as soon after as conveniently may be.

3. The guardians shall, if possible, appoint the clerk and the treasurer at the third weekly meeting of the guardians, or at some meeting previous to the third weekly meeting.

4. The chairman or the clerk shall, as soon as conveniently may be after any meeting at which an appointment of officers shall be made, report the same to the Poor Law Commissioners, in order that they may approve or disallow of the same, or give such other directions therein, as the case may be.

Qualifications for Offices.

5. Each person to be appointed as a medical officer of the Union shall be duly licensed to practise as a medical man.

6. In case the guardians shall deem it necessary to appoint a chaplain, such chaplain must be licensed and approved by the diocesan.

7. No person shall be appointed as a collector, or as master of the workhouse, or as relieving officer, who cannot keep accounts, who is in trade, or who will not undertake to devote his whole time to the general service of the Union, and the execution of the lawful orders of the Poor Law Commissioners and the guardians, and to reside where the guardians shall direct.

Salaries of the Officers.

8. The guardians shall allow to the clerk, the master and matron of the workhouse, the medical officers, the relieving officers, the chaplain, the schoolmaster and schoolmistress, and the porter, and the assistants and servants so to be appointed as aforesaid, such amounts of salary

salary and remuneration as they may think proper, subject nevertheless to the approval of the Poor Law Commissioners.

9. The person appointed clerk, if he be an attorney, shall undertake, in consideration of his salary as clerk, to perform and execute the legal business connected with the Union as hereinafter specified.

10. The collector shall be paid by a poundage, not exceeding 4 *d.* in the pound, on all rates and rents collected by him on account of the parish or parishes for which he shall be collector, above 20 *l.* each, and by a poundage, not exceeding 6 *d.* in the pound, on all such rates and rents so collected of or under 20 *l.* each, and by a per centage, not exceeding 10 *l.*, on the money collected in re-payment of loans, or recovered from the relations of paupers either by attachment of wages or otherwise.

11. The guardians may allow to the schoolmaster and schoolmistress, as an addition to their fixed salaries, a gratuity for every child educated at the expense of the Union, who, during such time as the guardians shall prescribe, shall have maintained himself or herself in any useful occupation, and be certified by his or her employer to be of good character.

Security to be given by the Officers.

12. The guardians shall require from the clerk, the master and matron of the workhouse, the relieving officers, the medical officers, the collector and treasurer respectively, such security for the due performance of their several duties as the guardians shall deem sufficient, and as the Poor Law Commissioners shall approve of.

13. In the case of all other officers, except the auditor and the household assistants and servants, an instrument in writing shall be entered into, which shall specify the nature of the chief services to be given by such officer, and the terms and stipulations mutually agreed upon between him and the guardians.

Suspension and Dismissal of Officers. Supply of Vacancies.

14. The guardians may, at their discretion, suspend from the discharge of their duties any medical officer or relieving officer, or the master, matron, or schoolmaster of the workhouse, and forthwith report the same, together with the cause of such suspension, to the Poor Law Commissioners for their decision thereon.

15. The guardians shall from time to time, as they shall think necessary, dismiss any of the other officers or servants of the workhouse, not before enumerated in Article 14, and appoint others in their room, without prejudice, nevertheless, to the powers given to the Commissioners by the Poor Law Amendment Act.

16. If the guardians shall, in the event of any vacancy in the office of relieving officer or clerk, delay to make a new appointment, or to appoint a substitute in case of sickness or accident as aforesaid, the duties hereby required to be performed by such relieving officer shall, in the cases aforesaid, and also in the mean time, and until the first relieving officers shall be appointed as herein directed, be performed by the overseers of the poor of the respective parishes of the Union; and the duties of clerk shall in like cases, and until the first clerk shall be appointed, be performed by the vice-chairman, or in his absence by some guardian to be appointed by the chairman.

17. If any officer of the Union shall be at any time prevented by sickness or accident from the performance of his duties, the guardians may appoint a competent person to act as his temporary substitute.

18. As often as any person appointed as hereinbefore directed shall die, or resign, or be removed, the guardians shall, as soon as conveniently may be, after such death, resignation, or removal, give notice thereof to the Poor Law Commissioners, and within one week after the date of such notice, proceed to make a new appointment in the manner prescribed by the above regulations.

Section IV.—Duties of the Officers.

1. Each officer who is required to give his whole time to the service of the Union shall, besides executing all lawful and special orders and instructions of the Poor Law Commissioners, and of the guardians, be bound to perform any service on behalf of the Union, although not included in the duties hereafter specified as belonging to his office.

2. Besides the performance of the duties hereafter specified, with relation to the accounts of the Union, and the general observance and execution of all lawful orders, regulations and instructions of the Poor Law Commissioners and guardians, the following shall be the particular duties of the several paid officers above enumerated.

Duties of the Clerk.

3. The following shall be the duties of the Clerk:

1. To give notice of the first, and any adjourned or extraordinary meeting, and to attend all meetings of the guardians, and to enter punctually in the minute-book the minutes of all the proceedings at every such meeting, and to submit such minutes to the presiding chairman of the same for his signature.

2. To keep minutes of all matters, the consideration whereof has been deferred, of all

 business

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business or orders unexecuted, and duly and punctually to submit the same to the consideration of the guardians.

3. To conduct the correspondence of the guardians according to their directions, and to keep copies of all letters sent, and preserve all letters received, and all books, letters, and documents belonging to the Union, in convenient order, for reference, in some office or room belonging to the guardians.

4. To direct the service of notices, to communicate to the several officers and persons engaged in the administration of relief within the Union, all orders and directions of the Poor Law Commissioners, or of the guardians; and so far as may be, to give such instructions as may be requisite for the prompt and correct execution of all such orders and directions, and to examine and report on any neglect or failure thereon which may come to his knowledge.

5. To prepare or superintend the preparation, and take measures for ensuring the prompt and correct return of all such statistical information and reports as may be required for the public service.

6. To prepare and submit to the guardians at their weekly meeting a summary statement, in the form to be hereafter prescribed; setting forth the number of paupers who are receiving relief, distinguishing the numbers who have been admitted into the workhouse, or who have otherwise been relieved since the last meeting of the guardians.

Duties of the Master of the Workhouse.

4. The following shall be the duties of the master of the workhouse:—

i. To receive into the house, paupers admitted in manner hereinafter mentioned, and to cause them to be examined by the medical officer, and to cleanse, clothe and place them in the proper wards, according to the regulations herein established.

ii. To read over to the paupers the regulations hereinafter contained respecting the workhouse, at such times as the guardians shall direct.

iii. To enforce industry, order, punctuality and cleanliness, and the observance of all such regulations by the several paupers in the workhouse, and by the several officers, servants and other persons therein employed.

iv. To read, or cause to be read, to the paupers, prayers before breakfast, and after supper, every day; at which prayers all the inmates must attend; except such of them as shall profess religious principles indisposing them to unite in such service, who are not to be compelled to join in the same.

v. To inspect and call over the names of all the paupers, immediately after morning prayers every day, and see that each individual is clean and in a proper state.

vi. To provide for, and enforce the employment of the able-bodied adult paupers, during the whole of the hours of labour, to train the youth in such employment as will best fit them to earn their livelihood honestly, and to keep the partially disabled paupers occupied, to the extent of their ability.

vii. To visit the sleeping-wards of the first, second and third classes hereinafter mentioned, in order to see that they have been all duly cleaned and properly ventilated.

viii. To see that the meals of the paupers are properly prepared and served, and to superintend the distribution thereof.

ix. To say, or cause to be said, grace before and after meals.

x. To see that the dining-hall tables and seats are cleaned after each meal.

xi. To visit all the wards of the male paupers at nine o'clock every night, and see that they are in bed, and that all fires and lights are extinguished.

xii. To receive from the porter the keys of the workhouse at nine o'clock every night, and to deliver them again to him at seven o'clock every morning.

xiii. To send for the medical officer when any pauper in the workhouse shall be taken ill, and to take care that all sick and lunatic paupers therein be treated as the medical officer shall, in writing, direct.

xiv. In case any pauper shall die in the workhouse, to give information to the medical officer, in order that he may examine into, and certify the cause thereof, in writing, to the guardians; and in case the body be not, within a reasonable time, removed for interment by the friends of the pauper, the same may be interred at the expense of the parish to which the deceased pauper belonged.

xv. To take charge of the clothes and other articles, if any, of such deceased pauper, and to deliver an inventory thereof to the guardians at their next meeting, who shall give the necessary directions respecting the same.

xvi. To submit weekly to the guardians an estimate of such provisions and other articles as will be required for the use of the workhouse, and to receive and execute the directions of the board thereupon.

xvii. To take charge of all provisions, clothing, linen and other articles belonging to the Union, and confided to his care by the guardians, and to receive all such articles as shall be purchased or procured for the use of the workhouse; and, before placing them in store, to weigh, examine and compare the same with the bills of parcels severally relating thereto; and after having proved the accuracy of such bills in all respects, to authenticate the same with his signature, and submit them to the guardians at their next meeting.

xviii. Not to purchase or procure any articles for the use of the workhouse, nor to order any alteration or repairs of any part of the premises, or of the furniture or articles belonging thereto, nor to pay any monies on account of the workhouse, without the order in writing of the guardians being first duly entered in the order-book provided for that purpose.

xix. To

xix. To take care that the wards, kitchen, larder and other rooms and offices of the workhouse be kept clean, and in good order.

xx. To report to the board of guardians, from time to time, the names of such children, or boys and girls, as it may be desirable to put out to service, and take the necessary steps for effecting the same, under the direction of the board of guardians.

xxi. To cause a copy or copies of the 92d and 93d sections of the Poor Law Amendment Act to be hung up in some conspicuous place of such workhouse.

xxii. To attend the meetings of the guardians from time to time when required, to produce his accounts weekly, and to report all matters of interest and importance as the same shall occur; and to keep the guardians informed of the state of the workhouse in every department, and to offer suggestions to the guardians for the correction of abuses, and the introduction of improvements in the management of the workhouse.

Duties of the Matron of the Workhouse.

5. The following shall be the duties of the matron of the workhouse:—

i. To see that the in-door work of the establishment is, as far as possible, performed by the female paupers maintained therein.

ii. To provide for and enforce the employment of the able-bodied in-door female paupers during the whole of the hours of labour, and to keep the partially disabled female paupers occupied, to the extent of their ability.

iii. To superintend and give the necessary directions for making and mending the clothing supplied to the female paupers and pauper children, and also the linen supplied to the male paupers of the Union; and to take care that all such clothing or linen be marked with the name of the Union.

iv. To visit all the wards of the females and children every night, and to ascertain that all the paupers in such wards are in bed, and the fires and lights duly extinguished.

v. To pay particular attention to the moral conduct and orderly behaviour of the female paupers and children; to see that they are clean and decent in their dress and persons, and to train them up in such habits as will best fit them for honest employments.

vi. To see that every pauper in the workhouse has clean linen and stockings once a week, and that all the beds be supplied with clean sheets once a month.

vii. To take charge of the linen and stockings for the use of the paupers, and any other linen in use in the house; and to give the necessary directions, and superintend their execution, concerning the washing, drying and getting up the same, and not to permit any to be dried in the sleeping-wards, or in the sick or lunatic wards.

viii. To take care, with the assistance of the nurses, of the sick paupers and young children in the workhouse, to see that they are clean in their persons, and to provide such diet for the sick paupers and the young children as the medical officer shall direct, and to furnish them with such changes of clothes and linen as may be necessary.

ix. To assist the master in the general management and superintendence of the workhouse, and especially

In enforcing the observance of good order, cleanliness, punctuality, industry and decency of demeanor among the paupers;

In the cleansing and clothing of female paupers on their admission;

In the cleansing and ventilating the sleeping-wards and dining-halls, and all parts of the premises;

In the placing in store, and taking charge of the provisions, clothing and linen belonging to the Union.

Duties of the Medical Officers.

6. The following shall be the duties of each medical officer:—

i. To attend at the workhouse, if placed under his care, at such stated times as may be directed by the guardians, and also when sent for by the master or matron of the workhouse in cases of sudden illness, accident, or emergency, and at all such other times as the state of the sick or lunatic patients within the workhouse may render necessary.

ii. To examine into the state of the patients in the sick and lunatic wards, and also into the state of such paupers in the workhouse as may be sick, and may not have been removed into sick wards; and also to examine into the state of the paupers on their admission into the workhouse.

iii. To give all necessary directions as to the diet, classification and treatment of sick and lunatic paupers, and to provide the requisite medicines.

iv. To attend duly and punctually upon all paupers out of the workhouse falling or continuing sick within the limits of his district, including all paupers whom, by law, any parish of the Union may be bound to relieve, whether belonging or not belonging to such parish, and whether under suspended orders of removal or otherwise, and to supply all such sick paupers with all necessary medicines and appliances.

v. In every case, when required by the guardians, or by the relieving officer, or by the pauper on whom he is attending, to give a certificate, under his hand, of the sickness of such pauper, or other cause of the attendance of such medical officer, the extent and nature of such sickness at the time of giving such certificate, and its probable duration, and such other particulars as may show how far the applicant is prevented from attending to his usual calling.

vi. To ascertain and report, without delay, to the board of guardians the cause and circumstances of every death which may take place in the workhouse.

vii. To keep a register of the sickness and mortality which may have obtained amongst the paupers under his care, according to the Form (F) hereto annexed, and to make a weekly return p. 94.

return of the state of the sick paupers, and of his attendances, to the guardians, in a book
p. 94. prepared according to the Form (G.) hereto annexed, in which book he shall also insert the cause and circumstances of every death among the paupers under his care, and make any reports relative to the sickness within the district which the guardians or the Poor Law Commissioners may require, and to attend the guardians when summoned by them for that purpose.

Duties of the Relieving Officers.

7. The following shall be the duties of each relieving officer:—

i. To attend, without summons, all weekly meetings of the guardians, and all other meetings when summoned by the guardians for that purpose.

ii. To receive all applications for relief, and to examine into the merits and circumstances of each case, and report the same to the guardians at their next weekly meeting.

iii. In cases of sudden and urgent necessity to give such temporary relief as each case shall require, either by placing the pauper in the workhouse, or affording relief out of the house in articles of absolute necessity, but not in money, whether the applicant for relief be settled in any parish in the Union or not.

iv. As soon as he shall have had notice of the sickness of, or of any injury received by, any pauper, to notify the fact to the medical officer; and in the meantime to furnish such relief as the emergency of the case may call for, and also to furnish such further relief, in or out of the workhouse, as the case, upon the certificate of the medical officer, may appear to require.

v. To report to the guardians, at their weekly meeting, all cases in which temporary relief shall have been given by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor, or cases of sudden and urgent necessity, as hereinafter provided.

vi. Once in every quarter of a year, as soon as conveniently may be after the respective days following, namely, Lady-day, Midsummer-day, Michaelmas-day and Christmas-day, he shall cause the description lists of the paupers who have received relief during the previous quarter to be made out, together with a statement of the total amount of such relief afforded to each family or to each single pauper in or out of the workhouse, in the manner
p. 93. set forth in the Form (E), and shall affix copies of such lists respectively npon the principal doors of the parish churches of the parish, which copies shall remain so affixed for three successive Sundays.

Duties of the Collectors of Rates.

8. The following shall be the duties of the collector of rates:—

i. To assist the churchwardens and overseers of the parishes for which he may be appointed collector in making up the assessments, filling up receipts, keeping all books, and making all returns which relate to the collection of rates, rents or other monies payable on account of the poor.

ii. To collect all monies payable on account of the poor-rate, or for rent, or arising from any of the sources of income of such parishes.

iii. To pay over weekly, or oftener if required, and whenever the sum in his hands shall amount to 50*l.*, to the treasurer of the Union, to be placed to the account of the churchwardens and overseers of such parishes respectively, the monies collected on behalf of such parishes respectively, but to make no other payment or disbursement whatsoever.

iv. At all times, when required by the churchwardens and overseers of the said respective parishes, to produce the rate-books and other account-books in his custody relating to such parishes, and balance the said rates, and to furnish the said churchwardens and overseers respectively with a true list of all defaulters in the payment of rates and other dues to such parishes, and, under the direction of the guardians, to institute and attend to proceedings against such defaulters.

v. To attend the weekly meetings of the guardians with the several receipt check-books and the rate-book in collection; and when and so soon as any rate-book is closed, to hand over the same to the clerk, and all the receipt-books belonging thereto.

Duties of the Treasurer.

9. The duties of the treasurer shall be—

i. To receive all monies tendered to be paid to the use of the Union, and to place the same to the credit of the Union.

ii. To pay and satisfy, out of any monies for the time being in his hands belonging to the Union, all checks and drafts which shall be drawn upon him by any three or more of the guardians, and countersigned or witnessed by their clerk, or the person for the time being acting as such clerk, as and when the same shall be presented at his house or usual place of residence.

iii. To receive all monies tendered to be paid to the account of the churchwardens and overseers of any parish in the Union, and to place the same to their credit.

iv. To pay and satisfy, out of any monies for the time being in his hands, on account of the churchwardens and overseers of any parish in the Union, all checks and drafts signed by the majority of the churchwardens and overseers of such parish.

v. To keep and to render, whenever required by the guardians, an account of all monies received and paid by him as such treasurer.

vi. To submit such account quarterly to the auditor appointed for the said Union.

Duties of the Auditor.

10. The duties of the auditor shall be—

i. To audit the accounts of the Union, and of the several parishes comprised therein, at proper periods.

ii. To examine whether the expenditure in all cases is such as might lawfully be made, and to strike out such payments and charges as are not authorized by some provision of the law, or by virtue of the orders, rules and regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners.

iii. To see that the accounts are presented in the proper form, and that the particular items of receipt and expenditure are stated in detail, and supported by adequate vouchers of receipt and authority for payments, and that all sums received, or which ought to have been received, are brought into account.

Duties of the Chaplain.

11. In any case in which it shall have been deemed necessary to appoint a chaplain, the following shall be his duties:—

i. To read prayers, and to preach a sermon to the paupers every Sunday.

ii. To administer the sacrament to such of the paupers as may be desirous of receiving the same, at least once every three months.

iii. To examine and catechise the children at least once every month, and after each of such examinations to record the same, and state the general progress and condition of the children, and the moral and religious state of the inmates generally, in a book to be kept for that purpose, to be laid before the board of guardians at their next meeting; in which book also the chaplain shall insert the date of each of his attendances at the workhouse.

iv. To visit the sick paupers in the workhouse, when especially applied to for that purpose by the master or matron, and generally to watch over the moral and religious conduct of all the individuals of the establishment.

Duties of the Schoolmaster.

12. The following shall be the duties of the schoolmaster and schoolmistress of the workhouse:—

To instruct the boys and girls in the house as hereinafter directed, and to assist the master and matron in the performance of their several duties, and in the maintenance of order and due subordination in the workhouse.

Duties of the Porter of the Workhouse.

13. The following shall be the duties of the porter of the workhouse:—

i. To keep the gate, and not to suffer any person, except the officers of the workhouse, or such person or persons as may be duly authorized by the guardians, or any Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner under the Poor Law Amendment Act, to enter into or go out of the house without the leave of the master or matron.

ii. To examine all parcels and goods before they are received into the premises, and prevent the admission of any spirituous or fermented liquors, or other articles contrary to law, or to the regulations herein provided.

iii. To search any pauper or other person whom he may suspect to have possession of any spirits or prohibited articles.

iv. To examine all parcels taken out of the house, and prevent the undue removal of any goods from the premises.

v. To lock all outer doors, and take the keys to the master at nine o'clock every night, and to receive them back from him every morning at seven, or at such hours as shall be directed by the guardians.

vi. To assist in preserving order, and in enforcing obedience and due subordination in the workhouse.

viii. To keep the master informed of all things affecting the security, order and interests of the establishment.

The present Parochial Officers.

14. The paid officers at present in office in the Union shall continue in office, and obey the directions of the guardians, until the new officers above named are appointed.

15. The churchwardens and overseers of each parish in the Union shall from time to time, from any monies for the time being applicable to the relief of the poor which may be in their or either of their hands, or which may have been placed to their account with the treasurer of the Union, in manner hereinbefore mentioned, pay all such sums, as by the authority of the board of guardians expressed to them in writing, according to the Form (K) hereunto annexed, signed by the presiding chairman of any meeting, and two other guardians present at the same, and countersigned by the clerk, shall be directed to be provided from the poor-rates of their respective parishes, for the necessary relief of the poor thereof, and for defraying such proportion of the general expenses of the Union, as shall be lawfully chargeable on such parishes respectively; and shall pay over such sums to such person or persons, at such times and places, as by the same authority shall be directed, and shall take such persons' receipt for the same; and shall produce such authority and such receipts as their vouchers for those payments before the auditor of the Union in passing their quarterly accounts. p. 94.

16. The churchwardens and overseers, at times when their aid may be required by the guardians, or by any officer acting under their directions, shall assist in carrying into effect, and generally shall fulfil all the lawful orders and directions of the guardians.

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Section V.—Relief.

After the *first* day of *June* next, all relief, except in cases of emergency, and in cases of aged and infirm persons who have been accustomed to receive parochial relief, and in other cases hereinafter mentioned as cases for out-door relief, shall be given in the workhouses of the said Union.

In-door Relief.

Admission and Discharge of Paupers.

1. Paupers shall be received into the workhouse in any one of the following modes, and no other, viz.:—

i. By an order of the guardians, to be signified, in writing, by their clerk;
ii. By a provisional order in writing, signed by an overseer, churchwarden, or relieving officer;
iii. By the master of the workhouse, without any such order, in any case of sudden or urgent necessity.

2. No pauper shall be admitted under any written order as above mentioned, if the same bears date more than six days before the pauper presents it and claims to be admitted.

3. If a pauper be admitted by the provisional order of an overseer, churchwarden, or relieving officer, or by the master of the workhouse, in case of sudden and urgent necessity, the admission of such pauper shall be brought before the guardians at their next weekly meeting, who shall decide on the propriety of the pauper's continuing in the workhouse or otherwise, and order accordingly.

4. As soon as a pauper is admitted, he or she shall be placed in the probationary ward, and shall there remain until examined by the medical officer of the workhouse.

5. If the medical officer, upon such examination, shall pronounce the pauper to be labouring under any disease of body or mind, the pauper shall be placed either in the sick ward, or the ward for lunatics and idiots, not dangerous, as the medical officer shall direct.

6. If the medical officer shall pronounce the pauper to be free from disease, the pauper shall be placed in that part of the workhouse assigned to the class to which he or she may belong, and shall thereafter be treated according to the regulations hereinafter contained.

7. Before the removal from the probationary ward the pauper shall be thoroughly cleansed, and shall be clothed in the workhouse dress; and the clothes which he or she wore upon admission shall be purified and deposited in a place to be appropriated for that purpose, to be restored to the pauper on leaving the workhouse.

8. The master shall discharge any pauper out of the workhouse upon receiving the written order of the guardians; and any pauper may quit the workhouse, giving the master three hours' previous notice of his wish so to do: but no able-bodied pauper, having a family, shall so quit the house without taking the whole of such family with him or her, unless the guardians shall otherwise direct; nor shall any pauper, after so quitting the house, be again received into the house, unless in one of the modes hereinbefore prescribed for the admission of paupers.

Classification of Paupers.

9. On or before the *first* day of *June* next, the workhouse shall be adapted to the classification of the paupers, as hereafter specified:—

Males.

i. Aged or infirm men;
ii. Able-bodied men and youths of or above thirteen years of age;
iii. Boys of or above seven years of age and under thirteen.

Females and Children under Seven Years of Age.

iv. Aged or infirm women;
v. Able-bodied women and girls of or above sixteen years of age;
vi. Girls of or above seven years of age, and under sixteen;
vii. Children under seven years of age.

10. Provided always that the existing workhouse-room (that is to say), so much, and such part of the workhouse as is not at present filled with paupers, shall be used to the extent to which it is capable of being applied for the reception of paupers, until arrangements for carrying into effect the classification herein directed can be completed: and such existing workhouse-room shall, in the first instance, be applied to the reception of paupers of the second and fifth classes; and secondly, to paupers of the third, sixth and seventh classes; and lastly, to paupers of the first and fourth classes. But in all cases the sexes shall be kept entirely separate.

11. To each class shall be assigned by the guardians that apartment or portion of the building, or separate building, which may be best fitted for the reception of such class, and in which they shall respectively remain, except as is hereafter provided.

12. Provided that if for any special reason it shall at any time appear to the guardians to be desirable to suspend the above rule on behalf of any married couple, being paupers of the

first and fourth classes, the guardians shall be at liberty to agree to a resolution to that effect, such resolution, and the special reasons for which they deem the suspension of the order to be desirable, shall be duly entered in the minute-book, and a copy of the same shall be transmitted to the Poor Law Commissioners for their consent and approval, without which such resolution shall be of no effect.

13. Any paupers of the fifth or sixth class may be taken out of their respective classes, and employed as assistants to the nurses in any of the sick wards, or in the care of infants, or as assistants in the household work for any of the classes, except the second and third classes, and may be so employed either constantly or occasionally.

14. Any pauper of the fourth class, whom the master may deem fit to perform any of the duties of nurse or of assistant to the matron, may be so employed in the wards of the fourth, fifth, sixth or seventh classes; and any pauper of the first class, who may by the master be deemed fit, may be placed in the ward of the third class, to aid in their management and superintend their behaviour.

15. The children of the seventh class shall be placed either in a ward by themselves, or in such of the wards appropriated to the female paupers as the guardians shall direct; the mothers of such children to be permitted to have access to them at all reasonable times. With the foregoing exceptions no pauper of one class shall be allowed to enter the wards or yards appropriated to any other class.

Labour.

16.—i. The paupers shall be employed in any work which may be needed, and of which they may be capable, for the use of the Union, or in any other way the guardians may direct.

ii. No pauper shall be allowed to work on his own account whilst an inmate of the workhouse; the Union which supports him being entitled to the full produce of his labour.

iii. No work, except the household work and cooking, shall be performed by the paupers on Sunday.

iv. The boys and girls who are inmates of the workhouse shall for three of the working hours at least every day, be respectively instructed in reading, writing, and in the principles of the Christian religion; and such other instructions shall be imparted to them as are calculated to train them to habits of usefulness, industry and virtue.

Discipline.

17. The following regulations as to the discipline of paupers received in the workhouse shall be strictly enforced:

i. All paupers in the workhouse, except the sick, the aged, and the infirm, and the young children, shall rise, be set to work, leave off work, and go to bed at the times mentioned in the accompanying table, Form (H.), and shall be allowed such intervals for their meals as therein are stated; and these several times shall be notified by ringing a bell; and during the time of meals, silence, order, and decorum shall be maintained.

ii. Half an hour after the bell shall have been rung for rising, the names shall be called over in the several wards provided for the second, third, fifth and sixth classes, when every pauper belonging to the ward must be present, to answer to his or her name, and to be inspected by the master or matron.

iii. No pauper of the second, third, fifth or sixth classes shall be allowed to go or to remain in his or her sleeping-room, either in the time hereby allotted for work, or in the intervals allowed for meals, except by permission of the master.

iv. As regards aged and infirm persons, and children, the master and matron of the workhouse shall (subject to the directions of the guardians) fix such hours for rising and going to bed, and such occupation and employment as may be suitable to their respective ages and conditions.

v. No person shall be allowed to visit any pauper in any workhouse except by permission of the master, and subject to such conditions and restrictions as the guardians may direct; provided that the interview shall always take place in the presence of the master or the matron, and in a room separate from the other inmates of the workhouse, unless in case of sickness.

vi. Provided, nevertheless, that any licensed minister of the religious persuasion of any inmate of such workhouse, at all times in the day, on the request of such inmate, may visit such workhouse for the purpose of affording religious assistance to such inmate, and also for the purpose of instructing his or her child or children in the principles of their religion; such religious assistance and such instruction being strictly confined to inmates who are of the religious persuasion of such licensed minister, and to the children of such inmates.

18. Divine service shall be performed every Sunday in the workhouse, according to the Liturgy of the Church of England, at which all the paupers shall attend, except the sick and lunatic, and the young children, and such as are too infirm to do so, and except all those paupers who may object so to attend on account of their professing religious principles differing from those of the Church of England.

19. Any pauper who shall neglect to observe such of the foregoing rules as are applicable to him or her—

Or who shall make any noise when silence is ordered;

Or use obscene or profane language;

Or by word or deed insult or revile any other pauper in the workhouse;

Or who shall not duly cleanse his or her person;

 Or

Or neglect or refuse to work;
Or pretend sickness;
Or who shall wilfully waste or spoil any provisions, or stock or tools, or materials for work;
Or wilfully damage any property whatsoever belonging to the Union;
Or disobey any of the legal orders of the master or matron, or other superintendent;
shall be deemed disorderly, and shall be placed in apartments provided for such offenders, or shall otherwise be distinguished in dress, and placed upon such diet as the guardians shall prescribe.

20. Any pauper who shall, within seven days, repeat one of the offences specified in Art. 19;
Or commit a second of the offences specified in Art. 19;
Or who shall by word or deed insult or revile the master or matron, or any officer of the Union;
Or who shall be guilty of any act of drunkenness or indecency;
shall be deemed to be refractory, and shall be punished by such confinement and alteration of diet as the guardians shall direct by any regulation for that purpose; but no pauper shall be confined under this rule for any misbehaviour or offence, for a longer space than 24 hours, or for such further space of time as may be necessary, in order to have such pauper carried before a justice of the peace, to be dealt with according to law.

Diet and Clothing.

21. The guardians shall establish a dietary for such workhouse, and the diet of the paupers shall be so regulated as in no case to exceed in quantity and quality of food the ordinary diet of any class of able-bodied labourers living within the same district.

22. The meals for the aged and infirm, the sick and children, shall be provided at such times and in such manner as the medical officers may direct.

23. No pauper shall be allowed to have or use any wine, beer or other spirituous or fermented liquors, unless by the direction, in writing, of the medical officer. The medical officer may order for any individual pauper such change of diet as he shall deem necessary; and the master shall report such allowance or change of diet so made, to the next meeting of guardians, who may sanction, alter, or disallow the same at their discretion.

24. The clothing of the pauper shall be made of such materials as the guardians shall determine, and shall, as far as possible, be made by the paupers in the workhouse.

Duties of the Visiting Committee.

25. The guardians shall appoint from their own body a committee, to be called a Visiting Committee, whose duty it shall be to visit the workhouse or workhouses of the Union once every month at the least; and after a careful inspection, to write such answers as the facts may warrant, to the following queries, which are to be printed in a book, intituled the Visitor's Book, to be kept for that purpose, and submitted regularly to the guardians at their weekly meeting:—

i. Is the house clean and well ventilated in every part?—If not, state particulars of every defect or omission.

ii. Are the inmates generally healthy, or is there any sickness prevalent among them?—If so, state particulars, and especially if any dangerous or highly infectious case of illness exists in the house.

iii. Are the able-bodied male inmates kept at work as directed by the guardians?—If not, and if any improvement in the mode or description of their employment can be suggested, state the same.

iv. Are the schools regularly attended to by the master and mistress? Are the youths, boys, and girls, properly instructed and set to work; and is due care taken to fit them for becoming useful and respectable members of the community?

v. Are the children kept clean in their persons; and does their general conduct and behaviour appear to be properly attended to and regulated?

vi. Do the inmates of the workhouse, of all classes, appear clean in their persons, and decent and orderly in their language and demeanor?—If not, state the exceptions, and the names of the parties failing in this respect.

vii. Is the separation of all the various classes within the house strictly enforced at all times? State particulars of every instance of deviation from the rules in this respect, if such shall have occurred: the particular attention of the visitors being directed to this very important point of discipline.

viii. Is the established dietary duly observed; and are the hours of meals regularly adhered to?

ix. Is divine service regularly performed in the house? Are prayers regularly read?—Inspect the chaplain's last report.

x. Are the provisions and other supplies of the qualities contracted for? Examine the stores; inquire whether any complaint has been made thereon; and if so, examine the complainants.

xi. Is regular attendance given by the medical officer?—Inspect his last report.

Out-door Relief.

26. In the following cases of persons who are, or who, previously to the *first* day of *June* next, may be paupers, duly chargeable to any parish in the Union, and who are resident within it; namely,—

Persons who are indigent and helpless from age;

Persons

Persons who are indigent and helpless from being crippled, or from incurable disease;
Persons who are indigent and helpless from temporary sickness;
Widows who are destitute, and are burthened with children incapable of working;

The guardians may order weekly relief to be given, partly in money and partly in kind; that is to say, in articles of food, clothing, fuel, medicines, or other articles of absolute necessity.

27. In the cases of able-bodied persons, the guardians may, until accommodation can be obtained for the reception of such persons in the workhouse, give out-door relief, one half of which, at least, shall be in kind; but such relief shall only be given in return for labour at task-work.

28. If any churchwarden or overseer of the poor of any parish in the Union shall in any case of sudden and urgent necessity deem it right that temporary relief in articles of necessity should be given to any pauper out of the workhouse, such churchwarden or overseer shall, if possible, cause the same to be given by the relieving officer; but if such churchwarden or overseer shall give such relief himself, he shall forthwith report the same in writing to such relieving officer, and in case of any neglect so to do, the cost of such relief shall be disallowed in his accounts.

29. If any such churchwarden or overseer shall, in obedience to an order under the hand of one justice, give temporary relief to any person not settled nor usually residing in their parish, he shall forthwith report the same in writing to the relieving officer for such parish.

30. If any such churchwarden or overseer shall receive an order under the hands of two justices to give out-door relief to any person (duly certified under the hand of one of the signing justices to be of his own knowledge wholly unable to work) without requiring that such person shall reside in the workhouse, such churchwarden or overseer shall forthwith transmit the same to the relieving officer, to be laid before the guardians at their next meeting, that they may be enabled without delay to give to the relieving officer the necessary directions as to the amount and nature of the relief to be given.

31. All relief in kind, whether given upon the order of the guardians, or upon the order of the overseers, in cases of emergency, shall be given from the workhouse stores, except in cases of inability arising from disease or decrepitude.

Relief by way of Loan.

32. Any relief, or the cost price thereof, which the guardians shall, after due consideration of the circumstances of the case, think fit to give by way of loan, shall be considered as a loan, and shall be recoverable as such under the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

33. In cases hereinafter specified, the relief given shall be considered as a loan, and shall be recovered as such under the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act:

All cases of relief given to any pauper in possession of, or having a claim to, any property:
All cases of relief given to any able-bodied person, except in cases of sickness or accident.

Sec. VI.—Contracts for Supplies.

1. All provisions, fuel, clothing, or other supplies or materials, the cost of which may reasonably be estimated to exceed 10*l.*, to be paid for from the rates collected for the relief of the poor, shall be purchased upon contracts on sealed tenders, to be opened only at a meeting of the guardians.

2. Public notice of the day, hour, place, and purpose of every such meeting, and of the nature and conditions of the contract to be entered into, shall, in the case of all contracts, be given in the several parishes in which the workhouses of the Union shall be respectively situate, in the usual mode of notifying parochial business, and in the case of contracts for any work, supplies, or undertaking, the cost of which may reasonably be estimated to exceed 50*l.*, such notice shall also be given in some newspaper, circulated in the town or county in which such parishes shall be situate, for not less than 10 days previous to the day fixed for such meeting. In such notice all persons willing to contract shall be invited to make or send in to the clerk written and sealed tenders, stating the terms on which they will enter into such contracts.

3. The competition for such contract shall be perfectly free to all persons; and all written and sealed tenders received shall be by the clerk opened, unsealed, and read at such meeting; and the guardians shall be bound to accept the lowest of the tenders which may be so sent in or made, unless some objection to the terms of the tender, the quality of the supplies, or the character of the applicant, or candidate, or the sureties, or security proposed to be bound or given for the due performance of the contract, shall be made and entertained by such meeting; and in such case the next lowest unobjectionable tender shall be accepted.

4. But in case of the lowest tender or proposal being considered objectionable, or of two or more equal tenders having been made, or in any other case, the meeting may be adjourned for the purpose of receiving explanations, additions, or alterations of or to the tenders already sent in or made; and notice of such adjourned meeting, and the cause and purpose thereof, shall be given to the several persons who made such tenders, who shall severally be allowed to send in new tenders.

5. Every tender for the supply of provisions shall, so far as may be possible, be accompanied with specimens or samples of the provisions proposed to be supplied.

6. The guardians, or any three or more of them, shall, at least once in every quarter, or if need be oftener, examine the supplies furnished to the Union under such contract.

7. On the acceptance of every tender, a contract, bond, or other instrument in writing shall

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shall be entered into, which shall specify the nature of the supplies to be provided, undertaken, performed, or given by the contractor; and the terms, conditions, and stipulations mutually agreed upon by him and the guardians.

8. The contracts shall be in such forms as the Poor Law Commissioners may from time to time prescribe.

9. In all contracts for supplies or materials which are to be compensated in any other way than by periodical salaries, a clause shall be inserted requiring the contractors to send in their accounts quarterly, monthly, or oftener, as may be deemed most convenient; to the end that the same may be examined and settled by the guardians, and be submitted to the auditor or justices at the expiration of the quarter.

10. The penalty of 100*l.* imposed by the 55 Geo. 3, c. 137, s. 6, for the use of any person who shall sue for the same, on persons having the management of the poor being concerned in any contract for the supply of goods, materials, or provisions for the use of any workhouses, or the maintenance of such poor, is extended by the Poor Law Amendment Act, sec. 51, to every guardian, treasurer, master of the workhouse, and other officer appointed under the provisions of that Act; and by sec. 77, a penalty of 5*l.*, recoverable before two justices, is imposed upon any person filling any office in any Union who shall furnish or supply, for his own profit or on his own account, any goods, materials, or provisions ordered to be given, or for, or in respect of the money ordered to be given, in parochial relief to any person in such Union, of which penalty one half will be paid to the informer, and the other half in aid of the poor-rates of the Union.

11. It shall also be lawful for the board of guardians to cancel and make void any contract with any person or persons whomsoever, by mutual consent, if they shall think fit.

12. Every contract shall be liable to be altered or amended, in case any alteration or amendment should be rendered necessary by the rule, order, or regulation of the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, which may come into effect during the period that such contract or agreement would otherwise remain in force.

13. The board of guardians shall keep a list of all contracts into which they shall enter according to the form prescribed, and shall, when thereto required by the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, or by the Assistant Commissioner for the district, make a return of the state of, and proceedings under such contracts according to the form prescribed by the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales.

Sec. VII.—The Buildings and Property of the Union, and of the several Parishes.

1. Every workhouse belonging to any parish or parishes in the Union which, under the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, shall be for the common use of the parishes in the Union, shall be surveyed and valued; and for that purpose one valuer shall be appointed by the guardians at their first meeting, or within one month thereafter, on behalf of the Union, and the other on behalf of the parish to which such workhouse shall belong; which valuers shall choose an umpire before they enter upon the valuation, and such valuers, or in the event of their disagreement, the umpire, shall fix the sum which, in their or his estimation, such workhouse is fairly worth, to be sold, and also the sum which, in their or his estimation, such workhouse is fairly worth, to be let by the year, and shall give in their estimate to the guardians, who shall report the same to the Poor Law Commissioners for their information and guidance in awarding the amount of compensation for the use of such workhouse.

2. A committee shall be appointed by the guardians, to be called the "Building and Estate Committee," who shall inspect the workhouses, poor-houses and lands belonging to any parish or parishes in the Union, and report to the guardians the uses to which they may best be appropriated, and from time to time to view and examine and report the state and condition of such workhouses and estates.

3. The workhouse and other buildings which shall be converted to the uses of the Union shall constantly be kept in good repair and condition at the expense of the Union, and all the rooms and yards in such workhouses shall be limewashed at least once in every year.

4. Every tender or proposal of a contract for building, altering, or repairing a workhouse or poor-house in the said Union for which the estimated outlay shall exceed the sum of 100*l.*, shall, previously to the acceptance thereof, and to the commencement of the works proposed to be contracted for, be submitted, together with all plans and specifications relating thereto, to the Poor Law Commissioners, and no such contract shall be entered into without their sanction.

5. In every such contract for buildings or reparation a surveyor or surveyors shall be appointed on behalf of the Union, and a penalty shall be imposed on the contractor for the non-completion of the works by the day fixed for that purpose.

6. The guardians shall not hire nor purchase any land or ground for the use of a workhouse, or the employment of the paupers of the said Union, without obtaining an order from the Poor Law Commissioners.

7. No sales or exchanges, alterations, or repairs of workhouses or other buildings belonging to the Union or any parish therein, either under the directions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, or under the Act 5 & 6 W. 4, c. 96, shall be entered upon without obtaining previous directions from the Poor Law Commissioners.

Sec. VIII.—Expenditure of the Poor-rates and Funds.

Union Disbursements.

1. No bill or demand exceeding 1 *l.* brought against the Union, in respect of any matter within the control of the guardians, shall be payable out of the funds of the Union, unless and until it shall have been allowed either by the guardians, or by some committee or person specially authorized by them for that purpose.

2. Every payment exceeding 3 *l.* shall be made through a check drawn upon the treasurer, and signed by the chairman and two guardians present at a meeting of the Board, and countersigned by the clerk.

3. Checks which shall not be presented to the treasurer previous to the termination of the quarter in which they were given shall become void, without prejudice, however, to the right of the creditor to demand from the guardians a new check, upon satisfactorily explaining the reason why the former check was not presented.

4. As far as circumstances will permit, all bills and demands shall be brought in before the expiration of the quarter in which they were incurred, and shall be examined and paid within that quarter.

5. The clerk shall procure every week, from the treasurer of the Union, a statement of the sums of money and checks which the treasurer shall have received and paid during the past week, and shall lay the statement before the board at their weekly meeting.

6. Every person whose bill or demand shall be paid or settled by check or otherwise, shall give a receipt on a proper stamp (if the amount should require a stamp) for the money or check received by him; and if any check should not be paid when duly presented, the demand of the creditor shall remain in full force notwithstanding any receipt given by him.

7. The guardians, in the examination and passing of bills, shall refer to the counterparts in the order check-book of the orders sanctioning the expenditure, and shall, if they think fit, require the party to whom the order was issued to produce it.

Parochial Disbursements.

8. All bills and demands payable by the overseers of each parish in the Union, shall be examined and paid within the parochial year, and, as far as possible, within the quarter in which they were incurred.

9. No bill exceeding 40 *s.*, payable by such overseers, for any charge payable out of the poor-rate, shall be paid, unless and until it has been allowed by two overseers, or one churchwarden and one overseer.

10. All the officers of the parishes in the Union shall attend at the time and place appointed for the audit of the quarterly accounts, and shall produce all books and vouchers containing or relating to their accounts, for the inspection of the auditor, the guardians, and any rate-payer and owner of property in any parish in the Union.

11. The quarterly abstracts of the Union, and parish accounts hereinafter required to be made out by the clerk, shall be presented to the board at their last meeting in the quarter, or when they shall appoint, and shall be examined by them with the books of accounts of the Union and parishes, and if approved shall be signed by the chairman of such meeting.

Sec. IX.—The Accounts of the Union.

[Note.—*When this order was first issued, the Forms of Accounts then annexed, and herein referred to, were those given in the Appendix to the First Annual Report, and which have been superseded by the General Order for Accounts set forth below* (*No.* 13). *It is, therefore, considered unnecessary to insert the former Accounts in this Report.*]

The several officers of the Union shall, from the date of their respective appointments, punctually enter up and accurately keep, in the authorized forms, the books of account hereafter specified as ordered to be kept by each officer respectively, which books shall be provided for them at the expense of the Union by the clerk.

The Accounts of the Churchwardens and Overseers.

1. The churchwardens and overseers of every parish comprised in the Union shall, at the expense of such parish provide, and shall, according to the forms and directions given in this order, and in the Schedule marked (A), hereunto annexed, punctually enter up, and accurately keep the following books of account; viz.

i. *The Rate Book*, wherein shall be inserted particulars of the assessment, amount, payment or nonpayment of the poor-rate of such parish.

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ii. *The Rate Receipt Check-book*, the leaves of which shall respectively contain receipts for rates, and counterparts for such receipts to be filled up by the collector and signed by any one or more of the churchwardens or overseers of the poor of each of such parishes, such receipts to be detached from the said book and issued to the rate-payers of such parish as and when they shall pay such rates, and such counterparts to be retained by such collector in the said book.

iii. *The General Receipt Check-book*, the leaves of which shall respectively contain receipts, and counterparts of receipts, to be filled up and signed in like manner, for any payments made for the use of such parish other than rates, such receipts to be detached and issued to the persons who shall make such payments, and such counterparts to be retained as above mentioned.

iv. *The Book of Receipts and Book of Payments*, or the Book of Receipts and Payments, in one of which two books (if two be kept), and one side of such book (if one be kept), shall be entered on separate pages, an account of all the monies received from the following sources of income belonging to such parish, arranged under headings descriptive thereof, and set down in order of time and in separate items—

1. The poor-rate (setting forth whether first or second or other subsequent rate) allowed by the magistrates.
2. The rents or profits of land or tenements.
3. The income of other property belonging to the Union.
4. Payments from the natural relations of paupers.
5. Payments from fathers and mothers of bastard children.
6. Repayment of loans.
7. Repayments under orders of removal.
8. Fines paid over by order of magistrates.
9. Shillings paid by claimants to vote, and proceeds of sales of lists of voters.
10. Payments from other sources.

v. And in the other of such books, or on the other side of such one book, shall be entered in separate pages, an account of all monies paid from the rates of such parishes, arranged under headings descriptive thereof, and set down in order of time, and in separate items:—

1. Monies paid to the treasurer of the Union by order of the guardians.
2. The county or hundred rate.
3. Relief in kind, administered by the churchwardens and overseers of any such parish, in cases of necessity.
4. Costs of any proceedings at law, or before magistrates, or in equity, on account of any such parish.
5. The voters or jury lists, or any charges required or authorized by any statute or local Act, to be paid out of the poor-rates of such parishes.
6. The repairs or outgoings affecting the lands or tenements belonging to such parishes.
7. Other expenses which may lawfully be defrayed out of the poor-rates of such parishes by the churchwardens and overseers thereof.

The Clerk's Accounts.

2. The clerk to the board of guardians shall, at the charge of the Union, provide, and shall, according to the forms and directions given in this order, and in the Schedule marked (B), hereunto annexed, keep the following books of accounts; namely,—

i. *The Minute Book*, which we have hereinbefore directed to be kept, and in which shall be entered minutes of all monies received and paid, all orders and checks given, all accounts examined and allowed, all salaries ordered to be paid, as well as all other business, proceedings and transactions of the guardians at any of their meetings.

ii. *A Ledger*, in which shall be entered and posted up, under proper heads of account, duly arranged, the various items of money transactions contained in the minute-book.

iii. *The Order Check Book*, on one part or margin of the leaves of which shall be written all orders given by the guardians for provisions, stores, repairs, and on other accounts, and on the other part or margin of such leaves shall be written counterparts or minutes of such orders, such orders to be detached from the said book, and issued to the tradesmen or other persons dealt with or employed, and such counterparts or minutes to be retained in the same.

iv. *A Check Book of Admissions and Discharges* of paupers into and from the workhouse, which book shall contain an entry, according to the form prescribed, of the particulars of the orders of admission or of the discharge of every pauper admitted into or discharged from the workhouse.

v. *The Provisions Check Book*, which shall contain an account of provisions, stores and fuel, to be debited for every article received, and credited from the accounts in the provisions and clothing expenditure books of the master of a workhouse and relieving officers, for every article expended, and shall from those accounts be balanced weekly.

vi. *The*

vi. *The Clothing Check Book,* in which shall be inserted an account of the quantity and description of clothing which shall be received into every workhouse, and when and in what manner such clothing shall be disposed of, and which book shall be balanced weekly from the clothing expenditure book to be kept by the master of the workhouse.

vii. *The Inventory Book,* in which shall be inserted the particulars of all the furniture, fixtures, utensils and other articles in the workhouse, and the stock and other like property belonging to the Union, not included in the provisions and clothing expenditure books, and every particular as to the use, sale, working up, or disposal thereof.

3. The clerk shall make up and balance the accounts of such Union at the end of every quarter, and shall, under the directions of the guardians, prepare therefrom, and from the pauper description and relief books hereinafter mentioned, a *Quarterly Abstract of the Union Accounts,* according to the Form and Instructions in Schedule (B), numbered 11, showing the then present number of paupers of all classes actually receiving relief, and the account of receipt and expenditure for the last quarter, and which abstract shall be signed by the chairman at the last meeting of the guardians in such quarter, and shall be submitted to the auditor appointed for the Union.

4. The clerk shall, as soon as he shall receive notice of the day appointed for the auditing of the quarterly accounts of the Union, cause a notice of such audit, in the Form numbered 12 in the said Schedule (B), to be affixed on the external gate or door of every workhouse in the Union, and continue the same so affixed, until such audit shall take place.

5. The clerk shall, three clear days before the day appointed for auditing the accounts of the Union, deposit the said quarterly abstract, together with the vouchers with which the same is to be verified, in the board room of the guardians of the Union, and shall permit the same abstract and vouchers, and any and every of them, to be inspected, examined and copied by any rate-payer in such Union, at any reasonable hour of the day, between the day on which they shall be deposited and the day appointed for the auditing thereof.

6. The clerk shall, within 14 days after each quarterly audit, furnish to the officers of every parish or place comprised in the Union, *a Statement* showing the contribution and expenditure for each parish in such Union for the preceding quarter according to the form in the said Schedule (B), numbered 13.

7. The clerk shall, under the direction of the auditor appointed for the Union, make up from the quarterly balance sheets of the several parishes and places in the Union, such balance sheets to be furnished to the clerk by the auditor, *An Abstract of the Parochial Accounts,* according to the Form in the Schedule (B), numbered 14, and shall submit the same when made to the auditor.

The Accounts of the Master of the Workhouse.

8. The master of the workhouse shall, according to the forms and directions given in this Order, and in the schedule marked (C), hereunto annexed, punctually enter up, and accurately keep the following books of account, to be provided at the common charge of the Union: viz.—

i. *The Admission and Discharge Book,* in which an account of all persons admitted into and discharged from the workhouse, shall be kept.

ii. *The Provisions Expenditure Book,* in which an account of all provisions and fuel actually consumed from the stores of the workhouse, either in or out of the house, shall be kept.

iii. *The Clothing Expenditure Book,* in which a similar account shall be kept of the disposal of every article of clothing or bedding furnished to the workhouse.

iv. *The Register of Births,* in which a minute of every birth which shall from time to time take place in the workhouse shall be inserted.

v. *The Register of Deaths,* in which a minute of every death which shall from time to time take place in the workhouse shall be inserted.

vi. *The In-door Labour Book,* in which shall be inserted the quantity and description of work, if any, performed by each pauper daily, and in what manner the proceeds are accounted for, with such other particulars as may exhibit the state and mode of employment in the workhouse.

The Relieving Officer's Accounts.

9. The relieving officer shall punctually enter up and accurately keep, according to the forms and directions given in this order, and in the Schedule marked (D), hereunto annexed, the following books of account:—

i. *The Pauper Description Book,* which shall contain the names and description of all paupers in the district of such officer, and which said book shall be indexed alphabetically.

ii. *The Out-Relief Book,* in which such relieving officer shall enter the applications made from time to time for relief, and the particulars which, on making the examination into the merits of the case, required by these orders and regulations, he shall collect, as well as the relief actually given.

iii. *The General Weekly Abstract* of out-door relief, in which shall be inserted the total amount of out-door relief distributed by such relieving-officer, on account of each pauper unable to attend and receive relief from the workhouse.

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iv. *The Out-door Receipt and Expenditure Book*, in which an account shall be inserted of all the monies, provisions, and other articles received by such relieving officer, and the paupers to whom the same were distributed.

v. *The Out-door Labour Book*, in which shall be inserted the particulars of the work performed by out-door paupers, and the earnings received on account of such work.

The Auditing of Accounts.

10. The auditor appointed for the Union shall give to the clerk to the guardians, and the officers of the several parishes comprised therein, six clear days' notice in writing of the day, hour and place on and at which he intends to audit the said accounts; and shall for that purpose fix some day within 30 days of Lady-day, Midsummer-day, Michaelmas-day and Christmas-day respectively.

11. The auditor shall cast up and compute the said accounts, so as to ascertain the accuracy thereof, and shall strike a general balance, in order to show the sum due to or from the officer rendering the same at the time of the audit.

12, The auditor shall receive the objections in writing of any rate-payer in any parish of the Union to the accounts, or any item or charge therein, or any vouchers or authority for the same, and shall examine into the merits of such objections, and make a decision respecting the same.

13. If the auditor doubt the correctness of any account, or any charge in an account, he shall require the officer rendering the account, or any other officer in the Union, or (if the doubt shall have arisen respecting any goods stated to have been supplied for the use of the said Union) the persons represented to have supplied the goods, and any other persons who, in the judgment of the auditor, shall be able to give any information, to appear before him, and to produce any accounts, books or papers in their possession relating thereto which he may require, and shall examine such officers or other persons respecting such account, item or charge, and shall require them to verify on oath the correctness thereof, or to subscribe a declaration in writing as to the correctness thereof, in the latter case forewarning them of the penalties incurred under the Poor Law Amendment Act by persons subscribing a false declaration.

14. And any paid officer who shall fail to comply with the requisition of the auditor to appear before him, and to produce documents of which he may be in possession, shall, on report thereof to the Poor Law Commissioners made, be liable to be dismissed from his office.

15. If the auditor shall be of opinion that any money, goods or chattels belonging to the Union have been purloined, embezzled or wilfully wasted or misapplied by any officer or person accounting, he shall collect such evidence as he may think necessary to ascertain the amount or value of such money, goods or chattels, and shall surcharge such officer or person with such amount or value in his account, and shall direct and require the guardians to proceed against any paid officer so offending, under the provision in that behalf contained in the Poor Law Amendment Act.

16. The auditor shall also examine and correct, and sign the quarterly abstracts of the Union and parochial accounts hereinbefore required to be made by the clerk to the guardians, and shall transmit the same, when so corrected, to the Poor Law Commissioners.

Given under our hands and seal, this *seventh* day of *March*, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six.

(signed) *T. Frankland Lewis.*
J. G. S. Lefevre.
(L. S.) *Geo. Nicholls.*

Form (A.)—Requisition for an Extraordinary Meeting of Guardians.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the *Strand* Union,
in the County of *Middlesex*.

Sir,

We the undersigned, being two of the Guardians of the Poor of the *Strand* Union, do hereby require and direct you to summon an Extraordinary Meeting of the Guardians of the said Union, to be holden at on the day of 183 , at o'clock in the forenoon, to take into consideration [*set out the motion.*]

Form (B.)—Notice of First Weekly Meeting.

To *A. B.*, Guardian of the Poor of the *Strand* Union, in the County of *Middlesex*.

Sir,

You are hereby informed that the First Weekly Meeting of the Board of Guardians of the *Strand* Union will take place at on the day of 183 , at o'clock in the forenoon, for the transaction of business; and that meetings of the said Board will henceforth be held at the same place, on in every week, at the same hour of in the forenoon.

, Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the *Strand* Union.

Form (C.)—Notice of an Adjourned Meeting of Guardians.

Sir,

This is to give you notice that an Adjourned Meeting of the Guardians of the Poor of the *Strand* Union, will be held at on the day of 183 , to take into consideration [*set out the motion*]; which meeting you are hereby requested to attend.

, Clerk to the Guardians of the Poor of the *Strand* Union.

Form (D.)—Notice of Extraordinary Meeting of Guardians.

To *A. B.*

Sir,

I am directed by *C. D.* and *E. F.*, two of the Guardians of the Poor of the *Strand* Union, to summon an Extraordinary Meeting of the Guardians of the said Union, at on the day of 183 , at o'clock in the forenoon, to take into consideration [*set out the motion*]; which meeting you are hereby requested to attend.

, Clerk to the Guardians of the *Strand* Union.

Form (E.)

The *Strand* Union, in the County of *Middlesex*.

List of Paupers relieved during the Quarter ending by Order of the Board of Guardians, and in conformity to 4 & 5 Will. IV. c. 76.

(Insert Description List.)	Amount of Relief out of the Workhouse given during the last Quarter.			If in the Workhouse.
	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	No. of Days.

Form (F.)—Register of Sickness and Mortality.

Folio.	Name of the Patient.	Age.	Occupation.	Place of Residence at the time when attacked by Disease.	Name of Disease.	Known or supposed Cause of the Disease.	Day of Commencement.	Treatment, including Medicines administered.	Day of Termination of Disease.	Event.	Observations.

Form (G.)—Weekly Medical Return.

Name.	Age.	In-door.	Out-door.	Nature of Disease.	Days when attended.							Wine and other Necessaries ordered to be given to the Patient.	Observations.
					S.	M.	T.	W.	Th.	F.	Sat.		

Days when attended at the Workhouse - -

Form (H.)

	Hour of Rising.	Interval for Breakfast.	Time for setting to Work.	Interval for Dinner.	Time for leaving off Work.	Interval for Supper.	Time for going to Bed.
From 25th March to 29th September - - - - -	5 o'clock.	From 6 to 7.	7 o'clock.	From 12 to 1.	6 o'clock.	6 to 7.	8.
From 29th September to 25th March - - - - -	7 o'clock.	From ½ past 7 to 8.	8 o'clock.	From 12 to 1.	6 o'clock.	6 to 7.	8.

Form (K.)

——— Union.

To *A. B.* and *C. D.*, Churchwardens and Overseers [or Overseers, *as the case may be*] of the Parish [or Township, *as the case may be*] of

You are hereby authorized and directed to pay *F. G.*, on the day of at the Sum of Pounds Shillings and Pence, from the Poor-rates of the said Parish [or Township, *as the case may be*], towards the relief of the Poor thereof, and towards defraying such proportion of the general expenses of the Union as is lawfully chargeable on the said Parish [or Township, *as the case may be*], and you shall take the Receipt of the said *F. G.* for the said Sum of £

Given under our hands, at a meeting of the Guardians of the said Union, held on the day of 183 .

(signed) *X. Y.*, Presiding Chairman.
W. Z., *U. V.*, Guardians.

Countersigned,
R. S., Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the said Union.

[Note.—*Here follow Schedules (A), (B), (C) and (D), containing the Forms of Accounts.* *See Note in p. 89.*]

— No. 13. —

AMENDED ORDER FOR KEEPING AND AUDITING THE ACCOUNTS OF UNIONS.

Appendix (A.)

No. 13.
Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

Union.

Order for the Keeping, Examining and Auditing the Accounts of the above Union, and of the several Parishes of which it is composed.

WE, the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, in pursuance of the powers given to us in and by an Act passed in the Fourth and Fifth years of the reign of His present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales," do hereby order, as follows:—

I. *In reference to the separate Parochial Accounts of the several Parishes in the above-mentioned Union,—*

From and after the day of , the churchwardens and overseers (all of whom we shall hereinafter designate and include under the name of parish officers) of every parish and place comprised in the above-mentioned Union, or some or one of them shall, according to the forms and directions given in this our order, and in the Schedule marked (A.), hereunto annexed, punctually enter up, and accurately keep the following books of account, which books shall be provided by the board of guardians for each parish, and charged to their respective accounts. Schedule (A.)

1. *The Rate Book*, wherein shall be inserted the names of occupiers and owners of property, the numbers of their votes, the particulars of the assessment, amount, payment or non-payment of the poor-rate of such parish or place, according to the Form No. 1. Form 1

2. *The Rate Receipt Check Book*, the leaves of which shall respectively contain receipts for rates, and counterparts thereof, such receipts, when the amount paid shall not require a stamped receipt, to be detached from the said book, and issued to the respective rate-payers of such parish or place, as and when they shall pay such rates, and such counterparts to be retained in the said book. Form 2.

3. *The Bastardy Receipt Check Book* shall, in like manner, contain receipts and counterparts, which receipts shall be issued to the respective parties making payments for the maintenance of bastards, when the amount received does not require a stamped receipt, and the counterparts shall be retained in the said book. Form 3 (*a.*)

4. *The General Receipt Check Book*, the leaves of which shall respectively contain receipts, and counterparts of receipts, to be filled up and signed in like manner, for any payments made for the use of such parish or place, other than rates and payments for the maintenance of bastards; such receipts, when the amount paid shall not require a stamped receipt, to be detached and issued to the persons who shall make such payments, and such counterparts to be retained in the said book. Form 3 (*b.*)

*** If the amount paid for rates, for the maintenance of bastards, or in aid of the poor-rate, shall require a stamped receipt, the receipt directed to be given shall be retained, and a stamped receipt substituted; and the party who shall receive the money shall make on the counterpart a memorandum of such stamped receipt having been given.

5. *A Book of Receipts and Payments*, on the pages of one side of which shall be entered, in separate items, in order of time, and under the true dates, an account of all monies received by such parish officers in respect of the poor-rate; or in respect of the rents or profits of any lands or tenements, or of the interest of money, belonging to such parish or place, and applicable in aid of the poor-rates; or from the relations of paupers under the provisions of the law in that behalf; or from the fathers or mothers of bastard children: or in repayment or recovery of money advanced to poor persons, under 58th and 59th sections of Poor Law Amendment Act; or in repayment under orders of removal; or in respect of fines or payments made under the orders of magistrates, or of courts of petty, general, or quarter sessions, or by defendants in any *qui tam* or other action; or in respect of payments made by claimants to vote, or purchasers of lists of voters; or of any other matter whatever having reference to the rates for the relief of the poor of such parish or place. And on the opposite pages of such book shall be entered, in like manner, an account of all monies paid, under the written authority of the board of guardians; or in respect of the county, borough, hundred, or police-rate, or in respect of constables' expenses; or in respect of costs of any proceedings before magistrates, at law, or in equity, on account of such parish or place; or in respect of the voters or jury lists; or any charges required or authorized by any statute or local act, to be paid out of the poor-rates; or in respect of the repairs or outgoings affecting the lands or tenements belonging to such parish or place; or in respect of salaries or other expenses which may lawfully be defrayed out of the poor-rates by such parish officers.

6. And we do further order, that the parish officers of every such parish or place shall duly make out a quarterly statement of receipts and payments, according to the Form numbered 4, in the said Schedule (A), exhibiting the sums collected and received, and the sums disbursed and paid by them. Form 4.

7. And shall, at the end of the Michaelmas quarter of every year, accurately and truly make out a terrier of the lands and tenements, and an inventory of stock, monies, goods Form 5 (*a.*) Form 5 (*b.*)

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No. 13. Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

and effects belonging to such parish or place, or given or applicable in aid of the poor-rates thereof, according to the Forms numbered 5 (*a*) and 5 (*b*), in the said Schedule (A.)

8. And we do further order, that "the Register of Parish Apprentices," required to be kept by the 42d Geo. III., and all other books kept by the parish officers, shall be produced to the auditor at the time of auditing the accounts, and shall be examined by him, and verified by his signature, and the date of the audit.

II. *And, in reference to the General Accounts of the Union, we do hereby order, as follows:*

Schedule (B.)

From the day aforesaid, the clerk to the board of guardians shall, at the common charge of the parishes comprised therein, provide, and shall, according to the forms and directions given in this our order, and in the Schedule marked (B), hereunto annexed, punctually enter up and accurately keep the following books of account; namely,

1. *The Minute Book*, in which shall be entered minutes of all monies received and paid, all orders and checks given, all accounts examined and allowed, all salaries ordered to be paid, as well as all other business, proceedings and transactions of the board of guardians at any of their meetings, according to the example set forth in the specimen contained in

Form 6.

the Form numbered 6. The entries shall be afterwards posted in the ledger, and a note of reference made in the margin of the page, to the folio in the ledger to which they are so carried.

Form 7.

2. *A Ledger*, in which shall be entered and posted up, under proper heads of account, duly arranged, the various items of money transactions contained in the minute book, according to the example set forth in the specimen contained in the Form numbered 7.

Form 8 (*a*.)

3. *The Order Check Book*, the leaves of which shall respectively contain all orders given by the board of guardians for provisions, stores, repairs, and on other accounts, and counterparts or minutes of such orders, such orders, when signed by the chairman presiding and countersigned by the clerk, to be detached from the said book, and issued to the tradesmen or other persons dealt with or employed, and such counterparts or minutes to be retained in the same.

Form 8 (*b*.)

4. *The Check Book of Admissions into, and Discharges from, the Workhouse*, the leaves of which shall respectively contain all orders of admission into the workhouse given by the board of guardians, and counterparts or minutes of such orders, such orders to be detached from the said book, and directed to the master of the workhouse, and such counterparts or minutes to be retained in the same.

Form 9.

5. *The Pauper Description Book* shall contain a statement of the names and description of all paupers in the Union, arranged according to their respective parishes, and particulars respecting them according to the headings of the several columns in Form numbered 9, that is to say:

1. The number of the pauper's name in the Application List, and Admission and Discharge Book.
2. The name of the pauper, of his wife, and children under 16, depending on him for maintenance.
3. The year when the pauper was born.
4. The place of residence of the pauper.
5. The particular calling the pauper has exercised.
6. If the pauper be an adult, whether such adult be single, married, widow or widower; and if the pauper be a child, whether such child be an orphan, a bastard, or deserted by parents.
7. Whether the pauper be able-bodied.
8. Whether the pauper be disabled, partially or wholly, and the description of the disability.
9. The present cause of seeking relief, and whether the pauper receives any assistance from clubs, charitable institutions, Government pension, or from other sources.
10. The date when the pauper first became chargeable.
11. The names and places of residence of relations liable under the 43d Eliz., c. 43; distinguishing those apparently able to assist the pauper.
12. Such other information as may be deemed useful, collected from the Application and Report Book (Schedule D, Form 24), and other sources.

Form 10.

6. *An Abstract of the Application and Report Book*, (Schedule D, Form 24), *with Decisions of the Board*, which shall contain the name of each applicant for relief, particulars and number of family, the relief given, and by whom ordered.

7. And we do further order, that the clerk to the board of guardians shall make up and balance the accounts of such Union at the end of every quarter, and shall, under the direction of the board of guardians, prepare therefrom and from the relief books, medical returns and ledger, a quarterly abstract of the Union accounts, showing the number of paupers of all classes actually relieved, and the amount of expenditure for the last quarter, and other

Form 11.

particulars, according to the form and instructions in the said Schedule (B), numbered 11, and which abstract shall be submitted to the auditor appointed for such Union, and, after it has been attested by the auditor, shall be signed by the presiding chairman of the board of guardians, and then transmitted to us the Poor Law Commissioners. And the clerk shall make a duplicate of such abstract, which shall also be attested by the auditor, for the use of the board of guardians.

8. And

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8. And we do further order, that the clerk shall, as soon as he shall receive notice of the day appointed for the auditing of the quarterly accounts of such Union, and the several parishes comprised therein, cause to be affixed on the external gate or door of every workhouse in such Union, and continue the same so affixed, until such audit shall take place, a notice of such audit, to this effect:

Notice is hereby given, that in pursuance of an order made by the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, the quarterly abstract of the accounts of the Union , together with the ledger, is deposited at the board room in workhouse, and such abstract and ledger will be open to be inspected, examined and copied by any owner or rate-payer in the said Union, at any reasonable hour of any day, when the board is not sitting, until the day of . And that on the last-mentioned day and following days the said accounts, together with the accounts of the several parishes of the Union, will be audited by at ; when and where any owner or rate-payer, who may object to any matter contained in the said several accounts, may attend, and his objection will be heard.

Dated the day of 183 .

D. C., Clerk to the Board of Guardians.

And the said clerk shall, three clear days before the day appointed for auditing the accounts of such Union, deposit the said quarterly abstract, together with the ledger with which the same is to be verified, in the board room of the guardians of such Union, and shall permit the said abstract and ledger to be inspected, examined and copied by any rate-payer or owner of property in such Union at any reasonable hour of the day, when the board shall not be sitting, after they shall be so deposited, and previous to the day appointed for the auditing thereof.

9. And we do further order, that the clerk shall, within fourteen days after each quarterly audit, furnish to the officers of every parish or place comprised in such Union an extract from the said quarterly abstract, stating the names of the parishes or places comprised in the Union, and showing the total number of male and female adults and children respectively belonging to such parishes and places, who have received relief in the workhouse; and the total number of male and female adults and children who have received relief out of the workhouse; the expense incurred by the respective parishes in assisting poor persons to migrate or emigrate; the amount repaid by the respective parishes of money borrowed for the purposes of building or repairing workhouses, or of assisting poor persons to emigrate; the amount of relief advanced by way of loan under the 58th and 59th sections of the 4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 76; the proportionate sum each parish has contributed towards the maintenance of paupers in the workhouse; the sum each parish has contributed to the relief of paupers, not being in the workhouse; the proportionate sum each parish has contributed towards the establishment charges, together with the total sum expended in behalf of each parish; the balance due from the Union to each parish, or the balance due from the parish to the Union; and also the increase or diminution of the number of paupers relieved, and of the amount of expenditure for each parish, as compared with the corresponding quarter of the preceding year.

10. And we do further order, that the clerk shall assist the auditor appointed for the Union to make up from the accounts of the several parishes and places in the said Union a quarterly abstract of the separate accounts of each parish, according to the form in the said Schedule (B), numbered 12; and when the said abstract is allowed by the auditor, and signed by the chairman of the board of guardians, the clerk shall transmit it to us the Poor Law Commissioners, and shall make a copy of such abstract, which shall also be signed by the said auditor, for the use of the board of guardians.

Form 12.

11. And we do further order, that the clerk shall, once in every quarter of a year, within 14 days after the quarterly audit, make out, according to Form No. 13, for each of the parishes or places comprised in the said Union, a list of the paupers who have received relief during the previous quarter, in or out of the workhouse; and the said clerk shall cause the relieving officers of the said Union to affix copies of such lists respectively upon the principal doors of the respective parish churches, or such other places upon which public notices are usually exhibited in the said parishes, or such other place or places as the guardians of the said Union for the time being may direct and appoint.

Form 13.

12. And we do further order, that previous to the hour appointed for the guardians to assemble at every weekly meeting, the clerk shall ascertain the accuracy of the several entries made by the master of the workhouse in the "Weekly In-door Relief List" (Form 18 *a*), and "Abstract" (Form 18 *b*), and the "Provision Check Account" (Form 19 *a*), and "Provision Receipt and Consumption Account" (Form 19 *b*), and shall authenticate the correctness of the entries by his signature; and that the clerk shall compare the entries in the "Out-door Receipt and Expenditure Book" with the entries in the "Minute Book," the "Provision Receipt and Consumption Book" (Form 19 *b*), and the "Weekly Out-door Relief Lists," and "Abstract" thereof (Forms 25 *a* and *b*), and shall authenticate the correctness of the same by affixing his signature; and the clerk shall exhibit all the said books to the board of guardians at every such weekly meeting.

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III. *And, in reference to the Workhouse Accounts in such Union, we do hereby Order as follows:*

Schedule (C.) From the time aforesaid, the master of every workhouse or poorhouse (both of which we shall hereinafter include and designate under the name of workhouse), situate in or belonging to the said Union, shall, according to the forms and directions given in this our order, and in the Schedule marked (C), hereunto annexed, punctually enter up, and accurately keep the following books of account, to be provided at the common charge of the parishes in such Union; namely,

Form 14. 1. *The Inventory Book,* in which shall be inserted the particulars of all the furniture, fixtures and utensils of the workhouse, and the stock and other like property belonging to the Union in the workhouse, not included in the provisions and clothing books, and every particular as to the use, sale or disposal thereof.

Form 15. 2. *The Admission and Discharge Book,* in which shall be kept an account of every pauper admitted into and discharged from such workhouse, according to the Form numbered 15.

Form 16. 3. *The Register of Births,* in which shall be inserted the date of every birth which shall occur in the workhouse, whether the child be male or female, the names of parents, to what parish belonging, whether the child be legitimate or illegitimate, when and in what name baptized.

Form 17. 4. *The Register of Deaths,* in which shall be inserted the date of every death which shall occur in the workhouse, the name and age of the deceased pauper, and to what parish belonging.

Form 18 (*a.*) Form 18 (*b.*) 5. *The Weekly In-door Relief List* (18 *a*) and *Abstract* (18 *b*), in the first of which (*a*) are to be inserted, for each parish of the Union, the names of the paupers, with the number of days each pauper is in the house in each week; in the second (*b*) are to be shown the aggregate number of days in each week passed in the workhouse by the total number of paupers of each parish.

Form 19 (*a.*) 6. *The Provision Check Account* (Form 19 *a*) shall contain an account of the number of paupers daily supported in the workhouse, and the provisions weekly consumed by them, according to the quantities allowed per diet table; the amount of waste in cooking; the amount given in out-relief; and the quantity of necessaries (not provisions) expended weekly.

Form 19 (*b.*) 7. Likewise the *Provision Receipt and Consumption Account* (Form 19 *b*), in which is to be inserted an account of the articles received and consumed weekly, and on hand at the expiration of every week, and also the quantities of each required for the ensuing week.

Form 20. 8. *The Clothing-Materials Receipt and Conversion Book,* in which shall be inserted an account of the materials for bedding and clothing (not made up), which shall be received into the workhouse, and also an account of the quantity of such materials converted, and in what manner converted. The quantities of materials so received and converted shall be balanced weekly; and the quantities of made-up bedding or clothing shall be carried weekly to the "Clothing Receipt-Book."

Form 21. 9. *The Clothing Receipt-Book,* in which shall be inserted an account of the made-up bedding or clothing, received either from tradesmen, or from the clothing conversion store, for the use of the said workhouse, which account shall be balanced weekly.

Form 22. 10. *The Clothing Expenditure Book,* in which shall be inserted an account of the made-up bedding or clothing expended, with the name and parish of each pauper to whom the articles have been supplied, which account shall be balanced weekly.

Form 23. 11. *The In-door Labour-Book,* in which shall be inserted the description of work, if any, performed by each pauper daily, with such particulars as may exhibit the state and mode of employment in the workhouse. This book shall be exhibited to the board of guardians weekly.

IV. *And, in reference to the Out-door Relief Accounts, we do hereby order, as follows:*

Schedule (D.) From the time aforesaid, every relieving officer of every district shall punctually enter up and accurately keep, according to the forms and directions given in this our order, and in the Schedule marked (D), hereunto annexed, the following books of account, to be provided for that purpose, at the common charge of the parishes in such Union, namely,

Form 24. 1. *The Application and Report Book,* in which such relieving officer shall enter the applications from time to time made for relief, and the particulars which, on making the examination into the merits of the case, required by our orders and regulations heretofore or hereafter to be issued, he shall collect, as well as the relief given, if any, in cases of sudden and urgent necessity, at the discretion of the officer, or by direction of an overseer of the poor; and these particulars having been submitted to the board of guardians, and the "Abstract" (B. 10.) prepared by the clerk therefrom, the relief ordered by the board, in every case, shall be inserted, and the signature of the clerk shall then be affixed thereto; and from this book the Pauper Description Book, (B. 9). shall also be prepared by the clerk.

Form 25 (*a.*) 2. *The Weekly Out-door Relief List,* (Form 25 *a*), in which shall be inserted the total amount of out-door relief distributed by such relieving officer to each pauper of the several parishes of his district, both in money and in kind; and an abstract of the same

Form 25 (*b.*) (Form 25 *b*), in which shall be inserted the aggregate amount of such weekly relief administered to the paupers in each parish of the district of such relieving officer.

Form 26. 3. *The Out-door Receipt and Expenditure Book,* in which an account shall be inserted of all the monies, provisions and other articles received by such relieving officer, and of the parishes to which those paupers belong to whom the same were distributed.

V. *And,*

Appendix (A.)

V. *And, in reference to the Medical Relief Accounts, we do hereby order, as follows:*

From the time aforesaid, the medical officer of each district shall enter up and accurately keep, according to the forms and directions given in this our order, and in the Schedule marked (E), hereunto annexed, the following books, to be provided for that purpose at the common charge of the parishes in such Union, namely, Schedule (E.)

1. *Register of Sickness and Mortality*, in which shall be inserted the name of every pauper patient under his care, the place of residence when attacked by disease, the nature of the disease, and the date of the commencement and termination of the disease, and such other observations as the medical officer shall think fit to make. Form 27.

2. *Weekly Return Book*, in which shall be inserted the date of every attendance upon a pauper patient, whether in the workhouse or at his residence; and also the days when the medical officer shall have attended at the workhouse. Form 28.

VI. *And, in reference to the Settlement and Examination of Accounts, Bills and Demands in the said Union, we do hereby order, as follows:*

1. No bill or demand exceeding 1 *l.*, brought against the said Union, shall be payable out of the poor-rates, unless and until it shall have been allowed, either by the board of guardians, or by some committee or person specially authorized by them for that purpose.

2. Every payment exceeding 3 *l.* shall be made through a check drawn upon the treasurer of the Union, signed by the chairman and two guardians present at a meeting of the board, and countersigned by the clerk.

3. All bills and demands, except for salaries of paid officers, shall be brought in within seven days at furthest after the expiration of the quarter in which they were incurred, and shall be forthwith examined and paid, and shall be included in the accounts of the quarter.

4. If, among the bills and demands against the said Union, there should be any which, from some unavoidable circumstance, could not be sent in, examined, ordered for payment, or paid within the quarter in which they were incurred, or within seven days after the expiration thereof, the same shall be paid, and afterwards be included in the accounts of the following quarter, by a special resolution of the board of guardians, duly inserted in the minute book.

5. The clerk to the board of guardians shall procure every week, from the treasurer of the Union, a statement of the sums of money and checks which the treasurer shall have received and paid during the past week, and shall lay the same before the board at their weekly meeting; and the chairman of the board shall affix his signature to the said book or statement of the treasurer, when the accuracy thereof shall be ascertained.

6. Every person whose bill or demand shall be paid or settled by check or otherwise, shall given a written receipt on a proper stamp (if the amount require a stamp), for the money or check received by him.

7. The board of guardians in the examination and passing of bills, shall refer to the counterparts in the "Order Check Book" of the orders sanctioning the expenditure, and shall, if they think fit, require the party to whom the order was issued to produce it.

8. And we do further order, that no bill or demand exceeding in amount 40 *s.*, brought against any parish or place in the above-mentioned Union, for any charge payable out of the poor rates, shall be paid, unless and until it has been allowed by two overseers, or one churchwarden and one overseer, of such parish or place, such allowance to be certified on the face of the bill by the signature of the individuals allowing the same.

9. And we do further order, that all bills and demands against any parish or place shall be brought in, examined, and paid within the parochial year, and, as far as possible, within the quarter in which they were incurred.

10. And we do further order, that the officers of every parish and place within the said Union shall attend at the time and place appointed for the audit of the quarterly accounts, and shall produce all books and vouchers containing or relating to their accounts for the inspection of the auditor, the board of guardians, the clerk to the board of guardians, and any rate-payer and owner of property in their parish.

11. And we do further order, that the officers of every parish and place comprised in the said Union shall, when they shall have received the extract from the quarterly abstract hereinbefore ordered to be furnished to them by the clerk to the board of guardians, submit the same to the next vestry or parochial meeting in such parish or place, and permit such extract to be inspected, copied or examined by any rate-payer of such parish or place, at any reasonable hour of the day-time for 14 days after the receipt thereof.

12. Each paid officer of the Union, or of any of the parishes comprised therein, who is bound to account, under this our order, shall be entitled to receive his salary quarterly, as soon after the termination of the quarter as his accounts for such quarter shall have been duly audited and allowed by the auditor; and the fact of such audit and allowance shall be duly recorded in the minute book, and be a warrant for the payment of the salary of such officer.

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No. 13.
Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

VII. *And, in reference to the Auditing of Accounts, Bills and Demands, in the said Union and Parishes, we do hereby order, as follows:*

1. The auditor appointed for the said union shall give to the clerk to the board of guardians, to the treasurer of the Union, and to the officers of the several parishes and places in the said Union, six clear days' notice in writing of the day, hour and place on and at which he intends to audit the said accounts; and that he shall for that purpose fix some day within 30 days after Lady-day, Midsummer-day, Michaelmas-day, and Christmas-day respectively.

2. In auditing the said accounts, the auditor shall see that they are presented in proper form, and that the particular items of receipt and expenditure are stated in detail, and are supported by adequate vouchers and authority, and shall ascertain that all sums received, or which ought to have been received, are brought into the account, and shall examine whether the expenditure in all cases is such as might be lawfully made, and shall strike out such payments and charges as are not authorised by some provision of the law, or by virtue of our orders, rules or regulations, or under legal process.

3. The said auditor shall cast up and compute the said accounts, so as to ascertain the accuracy thereof, and the balance or sum due to or from the officer rendering the same at the time of audit; and the said auditor shall verify the same by his signature, and the date of such audit.

4. The said auditor shall receive the objections in writing of any rate-payer in the said Union to the said accounts, or any item or charge therein, or any vouchers or authority for the same, and shall examine into the merits of such objections, and make a decision respecting the same; and the said auditor shall also examine the several auxiliary books and accounts in use in the Union and parishes, and shall ascertain whether they be kept in the prescribed form, and that the several entries correspond with and balance each other (where such balance may be required), and that the number of paupers relieved accord with the several entries of the amount and description of relief administered; and he shall certify the accuracy of such books and accounts by affixing his signature to each, and the date of such audit.

5. If the said auditor doubt the correctness of any account, or any charge in an account, he shall require the officer rendering the account, or any other officer of the said Union or Parishes, or (if the doubt shall have arisen respecting any goods stated to have been supplied for the use of the said Union) the persons represented to have supplied the goods, and any other persons who, in the judgment of the said auditor, shall be able to give information thereof, to appear before him, and to produce any accounts, books or papers in their possession relating thereto which he may require; and shall examine such officers or other persons respecting such account, item or charge, and shall require them to subscribe a declaration in writing as to the correctness thereof, first forewarning them of the penalties incurred under the Poor Law Amendment Act by persons subscribing a false declaration. And any paid officer who shall fail to comply with the requisition of the said auditor to appear before him, and to produce documents of which he may be in the possession, shall, on report thereof to us made, be liable to be dismissed from his office.

6. If the said auditor be of opinion that any money, goods or chattels belonging to such Union, or any parish therein, have been purloined, embezzled or wilfully wasted or misapplied by any officer or person accounting, he shall collect such evidence as he may think necessary to ascertain the amount or value of such money, goods or chattels, and shall surcharge such officer or person with such amount or value in his account, and shall submit a statement of particulars to the board of guardians, in order that they may proceed against any paid officer so offending, under the provision in that behalf contained in the Poor Law Amendment Act.

7. And the said auditor shall examine and correct and sign the quarterly abstracts of the union and parish accounts, hereinbefore required to be made, and report to us any facts or circumstances which he may deem of importance to the interests of the Union.

Given under our hands and seal this day of in the ear 1836.

FORMS.

SCHEDULE (A.)

Containing the Forms of the Parish Accounts to be kept by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish of

Form 1.—The Rate-Book.

No. of Assessment.	Name of Occupier.	Number of Votes.	Name of Owner.	Number of Votes.	Description of Property, whether Land or Houses, &c., and Situation or Name of Property.	If Land, the presumed Number of Acres.	Rental or Annual Value of Property.	Amount at which the Property is assessed.	Amount of Poor Rate to be collected at in the Pound.	Amount of Arrear of former Rate, if any.	Total Amount to be collected.	Amount actually collected.	Present Arrear.	Amount not recoverable, or legally excused.

Note.—In estimating the number of Votes to which an Owner is entitled, the Assessments of the several Properties in respect of which he is entitled to vote must be added together, and the number of his Votes must be inserted in the last place in which his name occurs in the Rate Book.

Form 2.—The Rate Receipt Check-Book.

183 . No

Poor's Rate for Parish, made the day of 183 , at pence in the pound.

Mr.

Assessment

£.

No.

Parish of

Mr.

Received the day of 183 , of pound shilling and pence, of the Poor's Rate for Parish, made the day of 183 , at pence in the pound.

£.

Note.—This part is to be retained by the parish officer.

Note.—If the amount require a Stamp Receipt, such Receipt may be substituted for that here given, and the Check retained in its proper order.

Form 3 (*a.*)—The BASTARDY RECEIPT CHECK-BOOK.

Parish of

No.

Received the day of 183 , of Mr. pound shilling and pence One Week's Maintenance of bastard Child.

£.

Parish of

No.

Received the day of 183 , of Mr. pound shillings and pence, on account of One Week's Maintenance of bastard Child of

£.

Form 3 (*b.*)—The GENERAL RECEIPT CHECK-BOOK.

Parish of

Estate or Charity

No.

Received of Mr. the day of pound shilling pence, on behalf of said Estate.

£.

Parish of

Estate or Charity.

No.

Received the day of 183 , of Mr. pound shilling and pence, being One Quarter's Rent to due to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the said Parish, as Trustees of the said Estate.

£.

Note.—If the amount require a Stamp Receipt, such Receipt may be substituted for that here given, and the Check retained in its proper order.

Form 4.—Parish of Union of Quarterly Statement of Receipts and Payments by the Parish Officers, for the Quarter ending

RECEIVED.	£. s. d.	DISBURSED.	£. s. d.
From the rate allowed by magistrates on		To the treasurer of the Union	
From the rate allowed by magistrates on		County or borough rate	
Total		Hundred rate	
From rents or profits of parish estates, or other annual income		Police rate	
From the relations of paupers		Constables' expenses	
From parents of bastards		Expenses before magistrates	
In repayment of loans under 58th and 59th Sections of Poor Law Amendment Act		For printing lists of voters	
In repayment under orders of removal		Ditto lists of objections to voters	
Shillings paid by claimants to vote (Registration)		Ditto jury lists	
Proceeds of sale of lists of voters (Registration)		Expenses incurred on account of parish property	
Other receipts, viz.		Law expenses	
£. s. d.		Other expenses, viz.	
		£. s. d.	
Total received in the Quarter		Total expended in the Quarter	
Balance due from parish officers last quarter		Balance due to Parish Officers last quarter	
Balance due to Parish Officers £.		Balance due from Parish Officers £.	

183 . I do hereby certify that the above Statement is correctly abstracted from the Parochial Receipt and Payment Book. Dated the day of 183 . *Auditor.*

Form 5 (*a.*)—Terrier of Lands belonging to the Parish of

Name of the Estate.	Tenure of the Estate.	Name of the Parish or Place where situate.	Name of the Tenant or Occupier.	Yearly Amount of Rent or Profits received.	Present Application of Rent or Profits.	Date of Original Gift or Conveyance, and Trusts thereof.	Names of the present Trustees.	Incumbrances on the Estate, if any.	Remarks.

Form 5 (*b.*)—Inventory of Funds, Securities and Money belonging to the Parish of

Amount of Principal Fund.	Nature of Security in which invested.	Amount of Yearly Income.	Present Application of Income.	Date of Original Gift or Conveyance, and Trusts thereof.	Trustees in whose Names standing.	Remarks.

Appendix (A.)

No. 13. Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

SCHEDULE (B.)

Containing the Forms of the General Accounts of the Union to be kept by the Clerk to the Board of Guardians.

The Minute Book and Ledger.

The forms and modes of keeping these books are exhibited in detail and example in the Specimens marked B. 6, and B. 7, at the end hereof.* * p. 121.

Form 8 (*a.*)—The Order Check-Book.

Folio in Minute Book.	No. 183 .	No. 183 .
	Mr.	Mr.
	Goods ordered, with the price }	Please to supply for the use of Workhouse [or please to do Work, and find Materials for the Union of .]
	Work ordered	_____ *Chairman.*
	_____ *Chairman.*	_____ *Clerk.*
	_____ *Clerk.*	_____
	_____	*N. B.* This Order must be preserved by the party to whom it is issued, as no account will be passed unless it be produced.
	N. B. This Counterpart is to be retained.	

Form 8 (*b.*)—Check Book of Admissions into and Discharges from the Workhouse.

_____ Union.

No.

To admit

Age
Parish
Date

_____ Chairman.

No.

To Master of the Workhouse at

Admit aged wife and children, belonging to the Parish of in this Union [*here state cause of admission*].

By the Board of Guardians, this day of 183

(signed) Chairman.

_____ Union.

No.

Discharge

Parish
Date

_____ Chairman.

No.

To Master of the Workhouse at

Discharge aged wife and children, belonging to the parish of in this Union [*here state cause of discharge*].

By the Board of Guardians, this day of 183

(signed) Chairman.

Form 9.—The Pauper Description Book.

Union. Parish of

1. No. in Aplication List or Admission and Discharge Book.	2. Names of Paupers, their Wives, and Children under 16, dependent on them.	3. Year when Born.	4. Residence, where, and with whom.	5. Calling.	6. If Adult, whether Single, Married, Widow, or Widower; if Child, whether Orphan, Deserted or Bastard.	7. If Able-bodied.	8. If partially or wholly Disabled, description of the Disability.	9. Present cause of seeking Relief, and if receiving any assistance from Clubs, Charitable Institutions, Government Pensions or other sources.	10. Date when first Chargeable.	10. Names, &c. of Relations liable under 43 Eliz., distinguishing those apparently able to assist the Pauper, their earnings, and other means (if any.)	11. OBSERVATIONS. Deaths, Removals, and such other Information as may be deemed useful.

The figures at the head of the columns correspond with those in the Application and Report Book (Schedule D, Form 24), and in the Admission and Discharge Book (Schedule C, Form 15.)

Form 10.—ABSTRACT of the Application and Report Book, with Board's decisions on Applications, for the Quarter ending

Union. Parish of

No. in Relief List.	Name of Applicant.	Age.	Particulars and Number of Family.	Relief given, if any, at the discretion of Relieving Officer.		Relief ordered by Guardians.				Week when allowed.	Initials of Presiding Guardian.
				Value in Kind.	Week when given.	Money.	Kind.		For what time allowed, or nature of the Order made.		
							Quantity & Description	Value.			
				s. d.		s. d.		s. d.			

UNION. FORM

QUARTERLY ABSTRACT, showing the Number of Paupers Relieved, the Amount of Money

NUMBER OF PAUPERS RELIEVED, AS PER RELIEF LISTS.

PARISHES.	Aged, Infirm, partially and wholly Disabled. 1					Orphans, Foundlings, and Children of Widows re-married, age under 16.* 2		Illegitimate Children under 16, without their Mothers. 3		Insane Persons, Lunatics and Idiots. 4						Able-bodied.											
	In-door.			Out-door.						In-door.	Out-door.					Illegitimate Children under 16, with their Mothers. 5	Widows and Women whose Husbands have deserted them, or are transported, having a Child or Children under 16 dependent on them. 6			On Account of Sickness or Accident. 7				Out of Work and other Causes. 8			
	Adults.											In Asylum.		Elsewhere.		In-door.	In-door.		Out-door.	In-door.			Out-door.	In-door.			Out-door.
	Males.	Females	Children under 16.	Males.	Females	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females	Males.	Females	Mothers.	Children.	Mothers.	Children.	Mothers.	Males.	Females.	Children under 16.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Children under 16.	Males.	Females.
Total - -																													
As compared with the corresponding Quarter of last year. Increase																													
As compared with the corresponding Quarter of last year. Diminution																													

* This only applies to the Children of Widows married before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Note.—The Numbers in the Columns must make up the Totals, and the Totals must agree with the In and Out-door Relief Lists.

Average Weekly Cost per Head of the In-door Paupers.			Workhouses now in Use.							
	s.	d.	Houses, where situate.	Classes of Paupers.	Number of In-door Paupers in each at Commencement of the Quarter.	Number of Births in the Quarter.	Number admitted during the Quarter.	Number discharged during the Quarter.	Number of Deaths in the Quarter.	Number of In-door Paupers at the end of the Quarter.
Food - - - - -										
Clothing - - - -										
TOTAL - - -										

OFFICERS ON SERVICE IN THE UNION.

Name.	Office.	Salary per Annum.

A. B., Chairman.

11.

Expended, and the Balances Due to and from the several Parishes, for the Quarter Ending

Vagrants and Paupers not belonging to any Parish of the Union. 9					TOTALS.								Number of Cases of Medical Relief.		EXPENDITURE.								BALANCES.		
					In-door.				Out-door.						Numbers and Cost of Persons Migrating and Emigrating.			Amount of Workhouse and Emigration Loans repaid.	Amount of Relief advanced, by way of Loan, under 58th and 59th Sections of Poor Law Amendment Act.	Proportion of In-maintenance.	Out-Relief.	Proportion of Establishment Charges.	Total.	Balance due to the Parish.	Balance due from the Parish.	Remarks.
In-door.			Out door.		Adults.				Adults.				In-door.	Out-door.	Numbers.		Cost.								
Adults.																									
Male.	Females	Children under 16.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Children under 16.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Children under 16 included in the preceding Columns.	Children under 16 relieved with their Parents, as per Out Relief List, and not included in preceding Column.	Total.			Migrating.	Emigrating.								

	£.	s.	d.
Total Union Law Charges debited to Establishment - - - -			
Total Medical Expenses debited to ditto - - - - - -			
Total Earnings of Paupers credited to ditto - - - - - -			

Average Contract Prices, during the Quarter, of Provisions and other Articles used in the Union.

——	Bread.	Meat.	Butter.	Cheese.	Potatoes.	Peas.	Oatmeal.	Candles.	Soap.	Coals.	Flour.			
Quantity - -		stone	lbs.	lbs.	cwt.	qts.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	ton				
Description* -	of Brown	of	of	of	of	of	of	of	of	of	of			
Price -	at	at	at	at	at	at	at	at	at	at	at			

* As set forth in the Contracts.

A true Abstract from the Relief Books, Medical Returns, and the Ledger of the Union, on this the day of 183 .

Clerk to the Board of Guardians.

This Abstract has been submitted to me, together with the Relief Books, Medical Returns, and the Ledger, with which I have compared it; and I hereby certify, that the items it contains are correctly abstracted therefrom.

Union.
the day of 183 .

Auditor.

Note.—This Abstract, when signed by the Auditor, is to be sent to the Poor Law Commissioners, and the Clerk is to make a Duplicate of such Abstract, which shall also be attested by the Auditor, for the use of the Board of Guardians. An Extract, as prescribed in the Order, is to be sent by the Clerk to each Parish in the Union.

Appendix (A.)
No. 13.
Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

Form 12.

QUARTERLY ABSTRACT of the Separate Accounts of each Parish in the Union for the Quarter ending

Parishes.	RECEIPTS IN EACH PARISH.												EXPENDITURE OF EACH PARISH.												
	From Poor Rate.	From Parish Estates, &c.	From the Relations of Paupers.	From the Parents of Bastards.	Repayments of Loans under the 58th and 59th Sections of Poor Law Amendment Act.	Repayments under Orders of Removal.	Received for Registration.	Other Receipts.	Total Receips.	Balance due last Quarter from Parish Officers.	Total.	Balance due to Parish Officers at the end of this Quarter.	Payments to the Union.	County Rate, &c.	Constables' Expenses.	Expenses before Magistrates, &c.	Printing Lists of Voters, &c.	Expenses incurred on account of Parish Property.	Law Expenses.	Other Expenses.	Total of Payments to Union, and separate Expenditure.	Balance due last Quarter to Parish Officers.	Total.	Balance due from Parish Officers at end of present Quarter.	Amount of Rates not recoverable, or legally excused.

A true Abstract from the several Parishes in the Quarterly Statements of Receipts and Payments of the Union, made this day of 183 .

(signed) *D. C.*, Clerk to the Board of Guardians.

This Abstract has been made from the Statements of Receipts and Payments of the several Parishes in the Union, and I hereby certify that it is correct. Dated day of 183 .

(signed) *B. A.*, Auditor.

This Abstract, signed by the Chairman of the Board of Guardians, is to be sent to the Poor Law Commissioners; and a Duplicate, signed by the Auditor, is to be kept for the Board of Guardians.

(signed) *A. B.*, Chairman.

Form 13.

Union Parish.

A LIST of PAUPERS belonging to the above Parish who have been RELIEVED during the Quarter ending

NAME.	AGE.	If not in the Workhouse, where resident.	Cause of requiring Relief.	Amount of Relief out of the Workhouse.	If in the Workhouse, the Number of Days.
				£. s. d.	

SCHEDULE (C.)

Containing the FORMS of the ACCOUNTS of the WORKHOUSE to be kept by the Master of the Workhouse.

Form 14.—The INVENTORY BOOK.

OFFICES, distinguishing, 1. Laundry; 2. Work-rooms; 3. Yard; 4. Garden.				HOUSE, distinguishing, 1. Board-room; 2. Day-rooms; 3. Sleeping-rooms; 4. Kitchen; 5. Brewhouse, &c.			
Fixtures.	Furniture.	Utensils.	Other Effects.	Fixtures.	Furniture.	Utensils.	Other Effects.

Appendix (A.)

No. 13.
Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

Form 15.

THE ADMISSION AND DISCHARGE BOOK.

ADMITTED.																		DISCHARGED.															
PARTICULARS TO FILL UP THE PAUPER DESCRIPTION BOOK.																																	
No. in Relief List.	2. Name.	3. When Born.	4. Parish to which belonging.	5. Calling.	6. If Adult, whether Single, Married, Widow or Widower; if Child, whether Orphan, Deserted or Bastard.	7. If able-bodied.	8. If partially or wholly Disabled, and Cause of Disability.	9. If receiving any Relief from Clubs, Charitable Institutions, Government Pensions, or otherwise.	9. Cause of seeking Relief.	10 and 11. Observations on Condition at the Time of Admission. Names of Relations liable under 43d Elizabeth, and any other general Remarks.	1. Number in Pauper Description Book.	Of what Religious Persuasion.	By whose Order Admitted.	When Admitted.	Numbers Admitted. Class. Men.	Women.	Boys under 16.	Girls under 16.	Total.	Numbers Discharged. Class. Men.	Women.	Boys under 16.	Girls under 16.	Total.	Parish to which belonging.	Name.	No. in Relief List.	By whose Order Discharged.	When Discharged.	Observations on general Character and Behaviour in Workhouse, &c.
														Numbers brought on from last Week -																			
														Remaining in the House -																			

The numbers in the first column are to be first inserted opposite to the name in the "Relief List," and then inserted here.

Form 16.—Register of Births in Workhouse.

No. in Relief List.	Date of Birth.	Whether Male or Female.	Names of Parents.	To what Parish belonging.	Whether Legitimate or Illegitimate.	When Baptized.	In what Name Baptized.	Remarks.

Form 17.—Register of Deaths in Workhouse.

No. in Relief List.	Date of Death.	Name.	Age.	To what Parish belonging.

Form 18 (*a.*)—Parish of Weekly in-door Relief List, for the Quarter ending

Adults, No.		Children under 16. No.	Name of Pauper.	When Born.	No. of the Class in the Quarterly Abstract.	Number of Days in the House in each Week.												Totals for the Quarter.
Males.	Fems					1st Week.	2d Week.	3d Week.	4th Week.	5th Week.	6th Week.	7th Week.	8th Week.	9th Week.	10th Week.	11th Week.	12th Week.	13th Week.	
			Total Days for each Week															

The Numbers are to follow consecutively, and are to be inserted in the first three Columns opposite the Names, and then inserted opposite the Names in the Admission and Discharge-Book.

Form 18 (*b.*)—ABSTRACT of the Weekly in-door Relief Lists for the Quarter ending

Folio of the Parish List.	PARISHES.	Number of Days each Week.													Total Days for the Quarter.
		1st Week.	2d Week.	3d Week.	4th Week.	5th Week.	6th Week.	7th Week.	8th Week.	9th Week.	10th Week.	11th Week.	12th Week.	13th Week.	
	Total Days for each Week														
	Folio in Provision Book														

A few sheets of this Abstract (according to the extent of the Union), are to be bound up at the end of the Book formed of the Parochial Lists.

The aggregate number of days in each week, passed in the Workhouse by the total number of Paupers of each Parish, must be taken from the Columns of Total Days for the several weeks in the Parochial Lists.

The total number of days for each week, in this Abstract, must agree with the collective number of days of the corresponding week in the Provision Check-Book.

Form 19 (*a.*)—Provision Check Account,

Week of the Quarter ending

Being an Account of the Number of Paupers Daily supported in the Workhouse at , and of the Provisions Weekly consumed by them, according to the Quantities allowed per Diet Table; the Amount of Waste; the Amount given in Out-Relief; and the Quantity of Necessaries Weekly expended.

IN-DOOR PAUPERS.										PROVISIONS CONSUMED.																	NECESSARIES EXPENDED.						
Class.	Description of the Classes in the Diet Table.	Number of Paupers each Day.							Collective Number of Days.*	Bread.	Flour.	Meat.	Cheese.	Potatoes.	Peas.	Oatmeal.	Butter.	Milk.	Rice.	Salt.	Tea.	Sugar.	Suet.				Coals.	Candles.	Soap	Wood.			
		S.	M.	T.	W.	T.	F.	S.		Loaves 4 lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	qts.		lbs.	qts.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.		lbs.				cwt.	lbs.	lbs.				
1	Establishment: Rations of the Master and others, equal to - -																															
1	Men - - -																															
2	Women and Children above nine -																															
3	Children under nine																															
4	Aged - - -																															
5	Sick - - -																															
	Total Number in the House																															
	Waste in cooking - - -																															
	Total consumed in the House -																															
	Out-Relief - - - -																															
	General Total - - - -																															

* The collective number of days must correspond with the collective number, in the same week, in the Abstract of the In-door Relief Lists, Schedule (C.) Form 18 (*b*); and the number inserted here for "Establishment" is (under that head), to be carried to the Abstract, and included in the totals.

The collective number of days, multiplied by the weekly quantities in the Diet Table, will give the amounts of the several articles allowed, and the waste in cooking added thereto will make up the total actually consumed. The gross quantities are to be carried weekly to the "Provision Receipt and Consumption Account," at the next folio.

A sheet of this Form is to be bound alternately with the Provision Receipt and Consumption Account: this Form first.

Form 19 (*b*).—Provision Receipt and Consumption Account for the Week of the Quarter ending

	ARTICLES.	ARTICLES RECEIVED AND ON HAND. Stock in Hand.	Price.	New Stock.	No. of Invoice.	Price.	Cost of New Stock. £. s. d.	Total Quantity of New Stock, and Stock in Hand.	ARTICLES CONSUMED. IN THE HOUSE. Quantity.	Price.	Value. £. s. d.	OUT-RELIEF. Quantity.	Price.	Value. £. s. d.	Total Quantity.	Total Value. £. s. d.	Remaining in Hand.	Stock required for next Week.
PROVISIONS.	Bread, Loaves, 4 lbs.																	
	Flour - - bushels																	
	Meat - - - lbs.																	
	Cheese - - - lbs.																	
	Potatoes - bushels																	
	Peas - - - - qts.																	
	Oatmeal - - - lbs.																	
	Butter - - - lbs.																	
	Milk - - - qts.																	
	Rice - - - - lbs.																	
	Salt - - - - lbs.																	
	Tea - - - - lbs.																	
	Sugar - - - lbs.																	
	Suet - - - - lbs.																	
NECESSARIES.	Coals - - - cwts.																	
	Candles - - - lbs.																	
	Soap - - - - lbs.																	
	Wood - - faggots																	
	Folio of Minute Book - - -								Folio of Minute Book - -						Folio of Minute Book			

A sheet of this Form and of the Provision Check Account are to be bound up together alternately.

The quantities consumed must correspond with the quantities in the Provision Check Account, and these quantities, with the stock in hand, must equal the total received.

Form 20.—Clothing Materials Receipt and Conversion Book.

When received.	Of whom received.	No. of Invoice.	Folio in Ledger.	Description.	When converted.	How converted.	Quantity used.	Folio in Clothing Receipt Book.	Remarks.

Form 21.—Clothing Receipt book.

When received.	Whence Received, from Tradesman, or Clothing Conversion Store.	No. of Invoice.	Folio in Clothing Conversion Book.	Bedding.			MEN'S CLOTHING.									WOMEN'S CLOTHING.										BOYS' CLOTHING.								GIRLS' CLOTHING.								
				Sheets.	Blankets.	Rugs.	Coats.	Waistcoats.	Trousers.	Shirts.		Shoes.	Stockings.	Hats.	Handkerchiefs.	Gowns.	Under Petticoats.	Upper Petticoats.	Shifts.		Aprons.	Handkerchiefs.	Shoes.	Stockings.	Caps.	Bonnets.	Coats.	Waistcoats.	Trousers.	Shirts.		Shoes.	Stockings.	Hats.	Handkerchiefs.	Frocks.	Under Petticoats.	Upper Petticoats.	Shifts.		Aprons.	Shoes.	Stockings.	Handkerchiefs.	Bonnets.
										Linen.	Cotton.								Linen.	Cotton.									Linen.	Cotton.									Linen.	Cotton.					

Form 22.—Clothing Expenditure Book.

Date.	Folio in Weekly Check Book.	Day of the Week.	Bedding.			Names of Paupers to whom Clothing is furnished.	MEN'S CLOTHING.										WOMEN'S CLOTHING.											BOYS' CLOTHING.									GIRLS' CLOTHING.									
			Sheets.	Blankets.	Rugs.		Coats.	Waistcoats.	Trousers.	Shirts.		Shoes.	Stockings.	Hats.	Handkerchiefs.		Gowns.	Under Petticoats.	Upper Petticoats.	Shifts.		Aprons.	Handkerchiefs.	Shoes.	Stockings.	Caps.	Bonnets.		Coats.	Waistcoats.	Trousers.	Shirts.		Shoes.	Stockings.	Hats.	Handkerchiefs.		Frocks.	Under Petticoats.	Upper Petticoats.	Shifts.		Aprons.	Shoes.	Stockings.	Handkerchiefs.	Bonnets.
										Linen.	Cotton.									Linen.	Cotton.									Linen.	Cotton.									Linen.	Cotton.							

Form 23.—In-door Labour Book for the Week ending

Number in Relief List.	NAMES.	UPON WHAT WORK OR HOW EMPLOYED.						REMARKS.
		Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	

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Appendix (A.)
No. 13.
Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

SCHEDULE (D.)

Containing the Forms of the Accounts of Out-door Relief and Out-door Paupers, to be kept by the Relieving Officer.

Form 24.

Parish of The Application and Report Book for the Quarter ending

The Figures refer to the corresponding Columns in the Pauper Description Book.

Nos. in Relief List.	2. Names of Applicants, their Wives, and Children under 16, dependent on them.	3. Age.	4. Residence, where, or with whom.	5. Calling.	6. If Adult, whether Single, Married, Widow, or Widower. If Child, whether Orphan, Deserted, or Bastard.	7. If Able-bodied.	8. If partially or wholly Disabled, and the Description of Disability.	9. IF RECEIVING Medical Relief.	9. IF RECEIVING Regular or Temporary Relief, or any other, and what Relief from Clubs, Charitable Institutions, Government Pensions, or otherwise.	9. Present Cause of seeking Relief, or Nature of Application.	10 and 11. OBSERVATIONS And Names of Relations liable under 43d Elizabeth, distinguishing those apparently capable of assisting the Applicant.	1. No. in Pauper Description Book.	Present Weekly Earnings, or other Income of Applicants, and Family dependent on them.	Relief given (if any) at the discretion of Relieving Officer. Value in Kind.	Relief given (if any) at the discretion of Relieving Officer. Week when given.	Relief ordered by Guardians. Money.	Relief ordered by Guardians. Kind. Quantity and Description.	Relief ordered by Guardians. Kind. Value.	Relief ordered by Guardians. For what Time allowed, or nature of the Order made.	Week when Order made.	Initials of Clerk.	Observations.
														s. d.		s. d.		s. d.					

Note.—The numbers are first to be inserted opposite to the name in the "Relief List;" and *then* inserted here. When the Parent is numbered, the Children are not to be numbered, and no Applicant to whom out-relief is refused, or who is offered the house, is to be numbered.

Instructions for the Relieving Officer to fill up the Application and Report Book.

1. No name of any applicant for relief, or of any member of the family dependent on the applicant, must be inserted, unless he or she is seen by the Relieving Officer.

2. The names of individuals comprised in families claiming relief, must be inserted in the List in succession, thus:

Jacob Smith, Grandfather.	John, Anne, and Jane Smith—their Children.
Janet Smith, his Wife.	William Smith, second Son of Jacob.
John Smith, Father.	——————— his Wife.
Rachel Smith, his Wife.	——————— Children:

with the requisite particulars of each member of each family, describing, in the case of an adult, any personal defects of a child, in case it is crippled or rendered burthensome.

3. If the age be not exactly known, it must be given as correctly as may be.

4. In setting down the calling of the claimant for relief, the name of the particular branch of labour which the claimant has exercised must be inserted thus:—"Agricultural labourer," "Ploughman," "Thatcher," "Wheelwright," "Millwright," &c. You will, in like manner, state the callings of the natural relations of the claimants who may be able to contribute to his maintenance. In the cases of Children you will insert the Parents' callings.

5. Especial care to inquire closely into the causes of the claims for relief, and to insert correct descriptions of them.

6. In specifying the alleged causes of the claims to relief by Able-bodied Adult Labourers, where the claim is founded on the loss of work, name the particular sort of work: as the "Shutting up of manufactory," &c. Where you can ascertain from parties well acquainted with the claimants, add your conclusion as to the real cause, whenever it differs from the alleged cause; as, "Indolence," "habitual drunkard," "habitual pauper:" so in the cases of Discharged Servants, state the cause of discharge, as "Discharged for misconduct, or indolence, or negligence."

7. In specifying the causes of the claims for relief of Children who become burthensome from the neglect or inability of their Parents to provide for them, specify the nature of the inability or other cause; as, "Father's insanity;" "Father's inability to obtain work;" "Father absent as militiaman, as soldier, or sailor, or marine:" "Father absent from home"—"alleged in search of work;" "Father fled for delinquency—imprisoned for stealing—imprisoned for smuggling," &c.

8. In cases arising from Infirmity of Mind or Body, designate the nature and extent of the infirmity; as in the case of "Lunatics," or "Idiots," or "Deaf and dumb," or "Crippled," or "Helpless from old age."

9. In the proper column should be inserted a description of any Pensions, Superannuation Allowances, &c.; any allowances from clubs or other similar bodies; any contributions, whether permanent or occasional, from Charitable Institutions, and the amount of each.

Appendix (A.)

No. 13.

Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

Form 25 (*a*.)

Parish of

WEEKLY OUT-DOOR RELIEF LIST, for the Quarter ending 183 ; District.

Relieving Officer.

No. in Application Book.	Adults. Males.	Adults. Females.	Children under 16.	The Gross Number of Children under 16 relieved with Parents.	Name of the Pauper, and Wife, if any.	When Born.	If not residing in Parish, where resident.	No. of the Class in the Quarterly Abstract.	From what Period Relief ordered.	Week when ordered.	1st Week. In Money.	1st Week. In Kind.	2d Week. In Money.	2d Week. In Kind.	3d Week. In Money.	3d Week. In Kind.	4th Week. In Money.	4th Week. In Kind.	5th Week. In Money.	5th Week. In Kind.	6th Week. In Money.	6th Week. In Kind.	7th Week. In Money.	7th Week. In Kind.	8th Week. In Money.	8th Week. In Kind.	9th Week. In Money.	9th Week. In Kind.	10th Week. In Money.	10th Week. In Kind.	11th Week. In Money.	11th Week. In Kind.	12th Week. In Money.	12th Week. In Kind.	13th Week. In Money.	13th Week. In Kind.	Total in Money and in Kind.
											s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*£. s. d.*
											£. s. d.		*£. s. d.*		*£. s. d.*		*£. s. d.*		*£. s. d.*		*£. s. d.*		*£. s. d.*		*£. s. d.*		*£. s. d.*		*£. s. d.*		*£. s. d.*		*£. s. d.*		*£. s. d.*	
										TOTALS - -																											

Total in money and value in kind each week.

Note.—The numbers in the first three columns are to follow consecutively, and then to be prefixed to the name in the "Application Book."

Form 25 (*b.*)

ABSTRACT of the WEEKLY OUT-DOOR RELIEF for the Quarter ending _____ 183 . UNION. District. , *Relieving Officer.*

Folio.	PARISHES.	1st Week.	2d Week.	3d Week.	4th Week.	5th Week.	6th Week.	7th Week.	8th Week.	9th Week.	10th Week.	11th Week.	12th Week.	13th Week.	Totals for the Quarter.	Folio of Ledger.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
	Totals for Week - -															
	Folio of Minute Book															

Note.—Several sheets of this abstract (according to the extent of the district) should be bound up at the end of the book formed of the relief lists; the weekly amount for each parish must agree with the weekly amount in the relief lists; the weekly total must agree with the total expended in the out-door receipt and expenditure book (Schedule D, Form 26), and such weekly total is to be debited to "Out-relief," and credited to the relieving officer, weekly; and the totals for the quarter being at the end of the quarter debited to the respective parishes, and credited to "Out-relief," will balance "Out-relief."

Form 26.—Out-door Receipt and Expenditure Book.

Union. District. Relieving Officer.

Receipts and Expenditure on Account of Out-Door Relief, for the Week of the Quarter ending 183 .

RECEIPTS.					EXPENDITURE.			
Date.	From whom, or whence received.	Money.	Value of Relief in Kind.	Total in Money and Value.	On account of which Parish expended.	Money.	Value of Relief in Kind.	Total in Money and Value.

SCHEDULE (E.)

Form 27.—Register of Sickness and Mortality.

Folio.	Name of Patient.	Age.	Occupation.	Place of Residence at the time when attacked by Disease.	Name of Disease.	Known or supposed Cause of the Disease.	Day of Commencement.	Treatment.	Day of Termination.	Event.	Observations.

Form 28.—Weekly Return Book.

Name.	Age.	In-door.	Out-door.	Nature of Disease.	Days when attended.							Wine and other Necessaries ordered to be given to the Patient.	Observations.
					Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.		

Days when attended at the Workhouse - - -

Appendix (A.)

No. 13.
Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

SCHEDULE (B.)

SPECIMEN.—FORM 6.—MINUTE BOOK.

Folios in Ledger.

(Fo. 1.)—At a meeting of the Board of Guardians, held April 1st.*—Present A. B., C. D., E. F., G. H.:—

Resolved, that to provide the Union with the funds estimated to be requisite for defraying the expenses of the current quarter, the calls on the several parishes shall be 20 per cent. on the declared averages of each, and that the several amounts shall be paid to the treasurer on or before the 20th instant.

Orders† were accordingly signed, directing the parish officers of the several parishes to pay the following sums; viz.—

	Average. £.	20 per cent Order. £.
Bedminster	900	180
Clifton	1,600	320
St. George's	1,500	300
Horfield	800	160
	4,800	960

The master of the workhouse produced estimates of sundry articles of provision and clothing required, and orders were issued to the several tradesmen to supply the articles.

A. B., Presiding Chairman.

(Fo. 2.)—At a meeting of the Board of Guardians, held April 22d, the minutes of the weekly meeting held on day of were read and confirmed.—Present, &c.

Resolved, that the clerk do give notice to the several parish officers that the relieving officer, John Williams, will supersede them in their duties of relieving the out-door paupers from and after Saturday next, the day of April.

Resolved, that a check† for 25*l.* be given to J. Williams, to relieve the out-door paupers, and that the amount be debited to him, and credited to the treasurer. — 8, 16

It appeared from the treasurer's book that he had received from the Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners 2,000*l.* in Exchequer bills on the workhouse account, that he had sold the same, and that they produced 2,015*l.* It was, therefore, ordered, that the treasurer's account be debited with the 2,015*l.*; that an account be opened in the ledger, entitled "Exchequer Loan," and credited with 2,000*l.*; and that "Establishment" be credited with 15*l.* as "Profit on Exchequer Bills." — 16, 13, 11

It appearing by the treasurer's book, that the following parishes have paid the sums which were ordered on the 1st instant; viz.—

	£.	s.	d.	
Bedminster	180	–	–	1, 16
Clifton	320	–	–	2, 16
Horfield	160	–	–	3, 16

The treasurer's account was debited, and the parishes credited accordingly.

Resolved, that the clerk apply to the parish officers of St. George's for the immediate payment of the order made on them on the 1st instant.

The clerk produced a certificate from the surveyor, that the works at the new workhouse were sufficiently advanced to entitle the contractor to 500*l.*

Resolved, that a check for 500*l.* be given to the contractor, and that sum be placed to the credit of the treasurer; that an account, entitled "Building Account," be opened in the Ledger, and debited therewith. — 16, 15

The master of the workhouse produced an estimate of provisions‡ required, and orders on the several tradesmen were signed accordingly.

C. D., Presiding Chairman.

* These examples, for the sake of brevity, are given at longer intervals than the weekly meetings required to be held by the orders and regulations, and for four large parishes instead of the usual number in a Union; for the same reason, the entries are all confined to the money transactions of the Union.

† All orders on parishes for contributions, and checks on the treasurer, are to be signed by two of the guardians and the chairman of the meeting making the order, and countersigned by the clerk.

‡ All orders for supplies are to be signed by the chairman of the meeting, and countersigned by the clerk.

Appendix (A.)

No. 13.
Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

Folios in Ledger.

(Fo. 3.)—At a meeting of the Board of Guardians, held May 6, the minutes of the weekly meeting held on the day of were read and confirmed.—Present, &c.

On comparing the relieving officer's Application, Relief and Expenditure Books, as authenticated by the clerk's initials, it appeared that the total value given in "Out-relief" was 16 *l.* 7 *s.* It was ordered that the relieving officer's account be credited, and that an account be opened in the ledger, entitled "Out-relief," and debited therewith.

8, 7

From the relieving officer's Receipt and Expenditure Book, it appeared that he had given tickets on J. Bull for 100 loaves, value 1 *l.* 5 *s.*—Ordered, that the relieving officer's account be debited, and an account opened in the ledger with J. Bull, and credited with the same sum.

8, 9

The relieving officer produced an estimate of the quantity of bread (100 loaves) required for relief in kind, and an order for the same, on J. Bull, the contractor, was accordingly signed.*

The "Provision Check Account," and the "Provision Receipt and Consumption Account," authenticated by the initials of the clerk, were examined, and the receipts were compared with the "invoices" and the Guardians' orders.—Ordered,

12, 6

that the cost of the articles received, viz. 144 *l.* 5 *s.*, be placed to the credit of "Invoice Account," and to the debit of "Provision Account;" that the value of

5, 6

the articles consumed for 7,140 days collectively, viz. 149 *l.*, be debited to "In-maintenance," and credited to "Provision Account."

Orders on the several tradesmen, for the provisions and other articles shown to be required by the Provision Book, were signed.

A. B., Presiding Chairman.

(Fo. 4.)—At a meeting of the Board of Guardians, held May 28th, the minutes of the weekly meeting held on the day of were read and approved.—Present, &c.

It appearing from the relieving officer's Application Book that a pauper of St. George's parish, No. 9 in Relief Book, has died, leaving no means to defray the expense of his burial,—Ordered, that the cost of his burial be paid by the relieving officer, that the expense be charged as out-relief to the pauper in the Out-relief Book, and that the Application Book be filled up accordingly.†

It appearing that the relieving officer paid 5 *s.* for the funeral of J. Thomas, a poor person not receiving relief, belonging to the parish of Horfield, under circumstances of necessity,—Ordered, that the name of J. Thomas be inserted in the Relief Book of that parish, the expense of his funeral be charged therein as out-relief, and the Application Book be filled up accordingly.

The parish officers of Clifton having applied to be repaid 7 *s.* paid by them to A. B., to assist him in burying his child, and it appearing from the relieving officer's Application Book that the money was paid under circumstances of very doubtful necessity, the question, whether such money should be repaid to the parish officers, was put to the vote, and negatived by a majority of two, there being four for and six against the question:

Pro.	*Con.*
1. C. D.	1. M. N.
2. E. F.	2. J. K.
3. S. L.	3. I. M.
4. W. B.	4. B. T.
	5. D. W.
	6. G. C.

Ordered, that the Application Book be filled up accordingly.

The parish officers of Horfield having applied to be reimbursed the sum of 1 *s.* 6 *d.* which they had given in value as relief to A. C., and it appearing by the relieving officer's Application Book that the relief was given under circumstances of urgent necessity,—Ordered, that the relieving officer do repay the same, insert the name A. C. in the Relief Book of the said parish, and charge the amount so repaid in such Relief Book, and fill up the Application Book accordingly.

11, 16

The master of the workhouse produced an account of the expense of several funerals of in-door paupers, amounting to 4 *l.* 6 *s.*, and a check was given him for the same, and the amount debited to the "Establishment."

3, 16

A. B., of St. George's parish, applied for a loan of 5 *s.* to assist him in burying his wife; and a check was given to him for that sum, and debited to St. George's, as a loan to A. B.

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* If the contractor supply the workhouse, he must keep a separate account against the relieving officer for articles supplied for "out-relief."

† The funeral expenses of in-door paupers are to be charged to "Establishment."

Appendix (A.)

No. 13.
Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

	Folios in Ledger.
E. F., of Horfield, having broken his arm, applied for 15 *s.* as a loan,—Ordered, that the money be advanced to him; a check was given to him accordingly, and the amount debited to Horfield as a loan to E. F.	4, 1
It appearing from the treasurer's book that the parish of St. George's has paid the 300 *l.* ordered on the 1st of April,—Ordered, that the treasurer's account be debited, and St. George's parish credited therewith.	3, 16
The relieving officer's books, authenticated by the clerk, were compared.—Ordered, that the total expended, viz. 15 *l.* 17 *s.* 6 *d.*, be credited to the relieving officer's account, and debited to "Out-relief."	8, 7
It appearing from the relieving officer's Receipt and Expenditure Book that the order of the 6th May on J. Bull, the contractor, for 100 loaves, value 1 *l.* 5 *s.*, has been used, and that the relieving officer, at his own discretion, has given tickets for five loaves, value 1 *s.* 8 *d.*,—Ordered, that his account be debited with 1 *l.* 5 *s.* and 1 *s.* 8 *d.*, and the contractor be credited with the same sums.	8, 9
An order on J. Bull, the contractor, for 200 loaves, was delivered to the relieving officer.	
A check for 25 *l.* was delivered to the relieving officer, who was debited, and the treasurer credited with the amount.	8, 16
It appearing, on examination of the Provision Book, that the value of articles consumed for 5,712 days collectively amounts to 119 *l.* 4 *s.*,—Ordered, that "In-maintenance" be debited, and "Provision Account" be credited with that sum.	5, 6
The quantities of the several articles received having been compared with the orders and invoices,—Ordered, that their cost, 76 *l.* 4 *s.*, be debited to "Provision Account," and credited to "Invoice Account."	6, 12
Orders to the several tradesmen for the supply of articles, according to the estimate in the Provision Book, were signed.	
The following tradesmen's bills were examined, compared with the Provision Book and invoices, and checks were given for the several amounts, to be debited to the "Invoice Account:"*	
T. Jones—No. 1 invoice - - - - £. 19 - -	12, 16
E. Hancom—No. 2 ditto - - - - 17 - -	- -
E. Webb—No. 3 ditto - - - - 9 - -	- -
A. B., Presiding Chairman.	

(Fo. 5.)—At a meeting of the Board of Guardians, held June 24th, the minutes of the weekly meeting held on the day of were read and confirmed.—Present, &c.

It appeared from the relieving officer's Application Book that the parish officers of Bedminster had applied for permission to discharge a bill, amounting to 3 *l.* 2 *s.* incurred in maintaining C. D., a pauper of Bedminster, who had been sent to that parish under a suspended order of removal,—Ordered, that the relieving officer be directed to pay 3 *l.* 2 *s.* to the parish officers, that the pauper's name be entered in the "Out-relief" list, and the amount paid on his account be charged therein, and that the "Application Book" be filled up accordingly.	
On comparing the relieving officer's books, duly authenticated by the clerk, it appeared that the sum expended in out-relief was 27 *l.* 3 *s.*—Resolved, that the relieving officer be credited, and "Out-relief" be debited therewith.	8, 7
It appearing from the relieving officer's "Receipt and Expenditure Book," that the order of the 28th of May on J. Bull, the contractor, for 200 loaves, value 2 *l.* 10 *s.*, has been used,—Ordered, that the relieving officer be debited, and the contractor credited with that sum. It also appearing from the same book that the relieving officer has received 50 loaves from the workhouse, reference was made to the "Provision Book," and the entries were found to agree.	8, 9
It appearing, on an examination of the Provision Book, that the cost of articles received amounted to 174 *l.* 15 *s.* 3 *d.*, and the value of articles consumed, for 5,712 days collectively, to 119 *l.* 4 *s.*,—Ordered, that the cost of articles received be credited to "Invoice Account," and debited to "Provision Account;" and that the value of articles consumed be debited to "In-maintenance," and credited to "Provision Account."	6, 12 5, 6 8, 6
It appearing by the Labour Books for the quarter that the net returns upon in-door and out-door labour amount to 72 *l.* 10 *s.*,—Ordered, that the sum be paid to the treasurer, and the "Establishment" be credited therewith.	16, 11
A check for 19 *l.* 7 *s.* 6 *d.* was delivered to the relieving officer, whose account was debited, and the treasurer's account credited with the amount.	8, 16
The following tradesmen's bills having been compared with the Provision Books and the invoices, and being duly authenticated by the initials of the clerk, checks on the treasurer were signed for the several amounts, and debited respectively to the "Invoice Account."	

* This mode of entering the payment will render it unnecessary to open accounts for each tradesman, which, however, may be done if preferred.

Appendix (A.)

No. 13. Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

Folios in Ledger.		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
	J. Wastie.—No. 4 invoice - - -	30	–	–			
	— 5 — - - -	28	–	–			
	— 6 — - - -	36	–	–			
12, 16					94	–	–
	J. Gordon.—No. 7 invoice - - -	53	–	–			
	— 8 — - - -	48	4	–			
	— 9 — - - -	61	12	6			
12, 16					162	16	6
	H. Harben.—No. 10 invoice - -	6	5	–			
	— 11 — - - -	3	12	6			
12, 16					9	17	6
„ „	A. Gardner.—No. 12 invoice - -	–	–		20	–	–
	I. Wood.—No. 13 invoice - - -	10	–	–			
	— 14 — - - -	20	14	–			
12, 16					30	14	–
	C. Blythe.—No. 15 invoice - - -	–	–		32	16	3

The following tradesmen's bill having been compared with the Clothing Book and invoices, and duly authenticated by the clerk, checks for the several amounts were signed, and debited to the "Clothing Account" in the ledger*.

		£.	s.	d.
10, 16	C. House.—No. 16 invoice - - - -	35	–	–
„ „	A. Neal.— - 17 — - - - -	15	–	–

The auditor having reported that he had audited and allowed the accounts of the clerk, master, relieving officer, medical officer and other officers,—Ordered, that the fact of such audit be entered in the Minute Book, and that checks for the salaries of those officers for the quarter, ending 24th of June, be signed†:

	£.	s.	d.
J. Wilson, master, and E. Wilson, matron - -	26	–	–
J. Crick, schoolmaster, and Jane Crick, schoolmistress	13	–	–
T. Smith, porter - - - - - - - -	5	–	–
T. White, clerk - - - - - - - -	20	–	–
J. Williams, relieving officer - - - - - -	20	–	–
Rev. E. Scott, chaplain - - - - - -	10	–	–
W. Blount, auditor - - - - - - -	5	–	–
E. Bryant, surgeon - - - - - - -	25	–	–

11, 16 And the several sums were debited to the "Establishment."

The accounts of the undermentioned persons were examined, and checks were signed for the respective amounts; viz.

	£.	s.	d.
C. Heath, bricklayer - - - - - - -	12	–	–
M. Evans, carpenter - - - - - - -	8	–	–
H. Cooper, for utensils - - - - - -	5	10	
J. Rowlings, for Utensils - - - - - -	20	–	–
W. Black, ironmonger - - - - - - -	10	–	–
C. Knight, for account books - - - - -	5	–	–
J. Dean, for printing - - - - - - -	15	–	–
W. Cox, for advertisements - - - - -	1	15	–
The clerk's bill, for sundries - - - - -	20	5	–

11, 16 And the "Establishment" was debited therewith.

(Fo. 6.)

* Bedding and bed furniture are to be charged to the "Establishment," being strictly for "Establishment" purposes. The cost of articles of clothing purchased in the quarter is to be charged to the "Clothing Account," and thence transferred to the debit of the several parishes, according to the collective number of days the paupers of each respectively have been maintained in the house.

† Practically the salaries of the officers, who are bound to account (in which term is included returns and accounts of things done, as well as of money expended), cannot be charged in the accounts of the current quarter, as they cannot be allowed or paid until after each audit (*See* Order for keeping Accounts, VI., Section 12). This minute is inserted here as an exemplification only of the manner in which the fact should be recorded.

Folios in Ledger.

(Fo. 6.)

The clerk produced a bill from Messrs. Wardwell, amounting to 22 *l.* 10 *s.* for the quarter's maintenance of lunatics belonging to different parishes of the Union,—Ordered, that a check be signed for the amount; that the relieving officer's account be debited, and the treasurer's account be credited with the same. Ordered also, that the relieving officer do acquit himself of the amount, by inserting the names and particulars of the several lunatics in the Application Book, and in the Relief lists of the several parishes to which the lunatics belong, and charging the respective amounts to each of the said parishes in the "total" column as Out-relief; and that the relieving officer's account be credited, and the "Out relief" be debited with the amount of the check. — 8, 16 — 8, 7

The clerk presented the following bills for charges incurred in the migration of paupers, viz.:

	£.	s.	d.
Clerk's account for petty expenses - - -	4	–	–
Mr. Muggeridge, Manchester - - - -	21	–	–
Messrs. Pickford - - - - - -	17	–	–
£.	42	–	–

Ordered, that checks be signed for the same, and that the whole be debited to an account to be opened in the ledger, entitled "Migration." — 14, 16

Ordered that the clerk calculate the proportion of the expense of each parish according to the number of paupers who have migrated from it, and that he transfer the respective amounts to the debit of each parish accordingly.

A check for 44 *l.*, being a quarter's rent for the workhouse, was delivered to the parish officers of Bedminster, and debited to the "Establishment." — 11, 16

One year's interest, viz. 100 *l.* on 2,000 *l.* borrowed of the Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners, having become due,—Ordered, that a check be signed and transmitted to discharge the same; that the amount be debited to "Establishment," and credited to treasurer. — 11, 16

An instalment of one-tenth part of the 2,000 *l.* borrowed of the Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners, having become due, a check for 200 *l.* was signed and transmitted to discharge the same, and debited to the Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners, and credited to the treasurer. — 13, 16

Ordered, that the Dr. side of the "Out-Relief Account" for the last quarter be cast up, and the total compared with the total of the "Abstract" of the Parochial Relief Lists, and that the several parishes be debited with the amounts appearing in the "Abstract" chargeable to each, and that the "Out-Relief" be credited accordingly*.

Ordered, that the number of days and the cost of provisions debited to "In-maintenance" during the quarter be cast up, and the total or collective number of days be compared with the total or collective number in the "Abstract of the In-door Relief Lists." And that the clerk calculate the share of the "Establishment" and of each parish, according to the number of days set against each parish in the "Abstract," as compared with the whole, and transfer to the "Establishment," and to each parish, the appropriate charge†.

Ordered, that the clerk cast up the "Clothing Account," and transfer the amount to the debit of "In-maintenance," and close that account by charging to each parish its share of the sum brought from the "Clothing Account," calculated by the same data and rules as the cost of provisions.

Ordered, that the "Establishment Account" be made up, and that the clerk calculate the proportionate share of the respective parishes, according to the declared averages, and transfer the amount of such share to the debit of the several parishes accordingly.

Ordered, that the clerk calculate the proportion to be paid by each parish of the instalment of the loan of 2,000 *l.* repaid to the Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners, and debit each parish with its share, and credit the "Building Account" with the total amount of the instalment.

Ordered,

* The totals for the quarter carried from the Abstract to the credit side of the "Out-Relief Account" will, if correct, balance the entries on the debit side of that account, and will thus close "Out-Relief."

† The number of days in "In-maintenance" and in the "Abstract" will agree if the accounts are kept correctly. The question stands thus: If days (the collective number of days for all the parishes) cost £. , what will days (the number of a single parish) cost?

Appendix (A.)

No. 13. Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

Folios in Ledger.

Ordered, that the clerk make up and balance the several other accounts in the ledger, and carry the several balances to the balance sheet, to prove the correctness of the ledger for the quarter.

C. D., Presiding Chairman.

(Fo. 7.)

At a meeting of the Board of Guardians, held July 1st, the clerk read the minutes of the weekly meeting held on the day of , which were confirmed,—Present, &c.

The clerk reported that he had, as directed, calculated the proportionate shares of the expense to be borne by the respective parishes from which paupers have migrated; viz.

		£.	s.	d.
1, 14	Bedminster - - - 15 paupers - - -	15	–	–
2, 14	Clifton - - - - 27 ditto - - -	27	–	–
	£.	42	–	–

and that he had closed the "Migration Account" by transferring to the debit of the above parishes their respective shares.

The clerk reported that he had cast up the Dr. side of the "Out-Relief Account" for the last quarter, the total of which he had compared with the total of the abstract of the "Parochial Relief Lists," and, finding them agree, he had closed the "Out-Relief Account," by transferring the amount set against each parish in the abstract to the debit of the respective parishes in the ledger.

The clerk produced the following Table, showing the proportion to be contributed by each parish towards "In-maintenance," calculated as directed at the last meeting:

	PARISHES, &c.	IN-MAINTENANCE.								
		Number of Paupers.	Collective Number of Days.	Provisions.			Clothing.			TOTAL.		
				£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1, 5	Bedminster -	98	3,640	75	19	3	9	19	–	85	18	3
2, 5	Clifton - -	88	6,370	132	18	8	17	8	3	150	6	11
3, 5	St. George's -	108	5,460	113	18	9	14	18	6	128	17	3
4, 5	Horfield - -	111	2,821	58	17	4	7	14	3	66	11	7
		405	18,291									
11, 5	Establishment -	3	273	5	14	–	–	–		5	14	–
	Totals - -	408	18,564	387	8	–	50	–	–	437	8	–

And the clerk stated that he had transferred to each parish, and to the "Establishment," the several amounts chargeable to each, and closed the "In-maintenance Account" and "Clothing Account" for the quarter.

The clerk produced the following Table, showing the proportion to be contributed by each parish towards the "Establishment" and the repayment of the "Exchequer Loan," and stated that he had transferred to the account of each parish their respective proportions of "Establishment" charges, thereby closing that account; and had debited the parishes with their several shares of the Exchequer Loan repaid, and credited the "Building Account" with the 200 *l.* total, as directed.

		Establishment.			Exchequer Loan.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1,11 1,15	Bedminster - -	54	–	–	37	10	–
2,11 2,15	Clifton - - -	96	–	–	66	13	4
3,11 3,15	St. George's - -	90	–	–	62	10	–
4,11 4,15	Horfield - -	48	–	–	33	6	8
	Totals - -	288	–	–	200	–	–

Folios in Ledger.

The clerk also stated that he had closed all the accounts, and carried the several balances to the balance sheet, as directed.

Examined the balance sheet, and compared it with the balances of the several accounts in the ledger. The balance of the Master's Provision Book was also compared with the balance of the "Provision Account" in the ledger, and they were found to agree.

The balance in the treasurer's hands was then compared with the balance appearing due from him in the ledger, and found to stand thus:

	£.	s.	d.
Balance as per treasurer's book - - - - -	1,697	12	3
Two checks in favour of Exchequer Loan Commissioners not presented - - - - - -	300	–	–
£.	1,397	12	3

which agreed with the balance appearing due from him in the ledger.

Ordered, that the clerk make out the Union Quarterly Abstract, Form 11, for the examination of the auditor.

Orders on the several parishes from which balances were due at the end of the quarter, to pay the same to the treasurer on or before the 10th instant, were signed, and delivered to the relieving officer, to be served upon the several parish officers.

The actual expense of the last quarter being the best guide for estimating the probable expense of the next,—Resolved, that a call be made on the several parishes equal to the amount of their last quarter's expenses, payable on or before the 10th instant; and orders were signed accordingly.

A. B., Presiding Chairman.

SPECIMEN.—FORM 7.—LEDGER.

INDEX.

	Folio
Bedminster - - - - - - - - - - -	1
Clifton - - - - - - - - - - - -	2
St. George's - - - - - - - - - -	3
Horfield - - - - - - - - - - -	4
In-Maintenance - - - - - - - - - -	5
Provision Account - - - - - - - - -	6
Out-Relief - - - - - - - - - -	7
J. Williams, Relieving Officer - - - - - - -	8
J. Bull - - - - - - - - - - -	9
Clothing Account - - - - - - - - - -	10
Establishment - - - - - - - - - -	11
Invoice Account - - - - - - - - - -	12
Exchequer Loan Commissioners - - - - - - -	13
Migration Account - - - - - - - - -	14
Building Account - - - - - - - - - -	15
The Treasurer - - - - - - - - - -	16
Balance - - - - - - - - - - -	17

Appendix (A.)

No. 13.
Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

BEDMINSTER.

Dr.

(Fo. 1.)

DATE.	Folio of Minute Book.	Folio of Corresponding Credit.	ITEMS.	£. s. d.	TOTAL. £. s. d.
1835.					
June 24	7	14	TO Migration, 15 paupers, share of - -	15 – –	
	–	7	Out-relief, 16 paupers, as per Relieving Officer's Abstract - - - -	25 10 6	
	–	5	In-maintenance, 98 paupers, 3,640 days collectively; viz.		
			Provisions - - - £. 75 19 3		
			Clothing - - - 19 –		
				85 18 3	
	–	11	Establishment, share of - - - -	54 – –	
	–	15	Building Account, share of one-tenth of Exchequer Loan repaid - - -	37 10 –	
					217 18 9

CLIFTON.

Dr.

(Fo. 2.)

DATE.	Folio of Minute Book.	Folio of Corresponding Credit.	ITEMS.	£. s. d.	TOTAL. £. s. d.
1835.					
June 24	7	14	TO Migration, 27 paupers, share of - -	27 – –	
	–	7	Out-relief, 13 paupers, as per Relieving Officer's Abstract - - - -	27 12 –	
	–	5	In-maintenance, 88 paupers, 6,370 days collectively; viz.		
			Provisions - - - £. 132 18 8		
			Clothing - - - 17 8 3		
				150 6 11	
	–	11	Establishment, share of - - - -	96 – –	
	–	15	Building Account, share of one-tenth of Exchequer Loan repaid - - -	66 13 4	
					367 12 3

ST. GEORGE'S.

Dr.

(Fo. 3.)

DATE.	Folio of Minute Book.	Folio of Corresponding Credit.	ITEMS.	£. s. d.	TOTAL. £. s. d.
1835.					
May 28	4	16	TO Check on Treasurer, a Loan to A. B. -	– 5 –	
June 24	7	7	Out-relief, 22 paupers, as per Relieving Officer's Abstract - - - -	19 7 –	
	–	5	In-maintenance, 108 paupers, 5,460 days collectively; viz.		
			Provisions - - - £. 113 18 9		
			Clothing - - - 14 18 6		
				128 17 3	
	–	11	Establishment, share of - - - -	90 – –	
	–	15	Building Account, share of one-tenth of Exchequer Loan repaid - - -	62 10 –	
					300 19 3

CONTRA. *Cr.* (Fo. 1.)

Date.	Folio of Minute Book.	Folio of Corresponding Debit.	ITEMS.	£. s. d.	TOTAL. £. s. d.
1835.					
April 22	2	16	BY Treasurer, order of the 6th April - -	180 – –	
June 24	7	17	Balance - - - - - -	37 18 9	
					217 18 9

CONTRA. *Cr.* (Fo. 2.)

1835.					
April 22	2	16	BY Treasurer, order of 6th April - - -	320 – –	
June 24	7	17	Balance - - - - - -	47 12 3	
					367 12 3

CONTRA. *Cr.* (Fo. 3.)

1835.					
May 28	4	16	BY Treasurer, order of 6th April - - -	300 – –	
June 24	7	17	Balance - - - - - -	– 19 3	
					300 19 3

Appendix (A.)

No. 13. Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

(Fo. 4.) HORFIELD. *Dr.*

DATE.	Folio of Minute Book.	Folio of Corresponding Credit.	ITEMS.	£. s. d.	TOTAL. £. s. d.
1835.					
May 28	4	16	TO Check to E. F., a Loan - - - -	– 15 –	
June 24	7	7	Out-relief, 8 paupers, as per Relieving Officer's Abstract - - - -	9 8 –	
	–	5	In-maintenance, 111 paupers, 2,821 days collectively; viz.		
			Provisions - - - £. 58 17 4		
			Clothing - - - 7 14 3		
				66 11 7	
	–	11	Establishment, share of - - - -	48 – –	
	–	15	Building Account, share of one-tenth Exchequer Loan repaid - - -	33 6 8	
					158 1 3
	–	17	Balance - - - - - -	- - -	1 18 9
					160 – –

(Fo. 5.) IN-MAINTENANCE. *Dr.*

				£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1835.					
May 6	3	6	TO Provision Account, for 7,140 days - -	149 – –	
– 28	4	6	Ditto - - - - for 5,712 ditto - -	119 4 –	
June 24	5	6	Ditto - - - - for 5,712 ditto - -	119 4 –	
			18,564		387 8 –
	7	10	Clothing Account, total cost for the quarter, transferred - - - - - -	- - -	50 – –
					437 8 –

(Fo. 6.) PROVISION ACCOUNT. *Dr.*

				£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1835.					
May 6	3	12	TO Invoice Account, as per Provision Book -	144 5 –	
– 28	4	12	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - -	76 4 –	
June 24	5	12	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - -	174 15 3	
					395 4 3

CONTRA. *Cr.* (Fo. 4.)

DATE.	Folio of Minute Book.	Folio of Corresponding Debit.	ITEMS.	£. s. d.	TOTAL. £. s. d.
1835.					
April 22	2	16	BY Treasurer, order of 6th April - - -	160 – –	
					160 – –

CONTRA. *Cr.* (Fo. 5.)

1835.							
June 24	–	–	BY Transfers to the following Accounts for their respective Shares of Provisions, calculated by the number of days they have had paupers in the House, as per Abstract:				
	7	1	Bedminster - 98 paupers - 3,640 days	75	19	3	
	–	2	Clifton - - 88 ditto - 6,370 days	132	18	8	
	–	3	St. George's - 108 ditto - 5,460 days	113	18	9	
	–	4	Horfield - - 111 ditto - 2,821 days	58	17	4	
			405 18,291	381	14	–	
	–	11	Establishment, 3 rations - 273	5	14	–	
			18,564				387 8 –
			BY Transfers to the following Accounts for their respective shares of Clothing, calculated by the same data as Provisions:				
	7	1	Bedminster - - - - - -	9	19	–	
	–	2	Clifton - - - - - -	17	8	3	
	–	3	St. George's - - - - - -	14	18	6	
	–	4	Horfield - - - - - -	7	14	3	
							50 – –
							437 8 –

CONTRA. *Cr.* (Fo. 6.)

1835.							
May 6	3	5	BY In-maintenance - - 7,140 days - -	149	–	–	
– 28	4	5	Ditto - - - - - 5,712 days - -	119	4	–	
June 24	5	5	Ditto - - - - - 5,712 days - -	119	4	–	
			18,564 days.				387 8 –
	–	8	J. Williams, out-relief - - - -	-	-	-	– 12 6
							388 – 6
	7	17	Balance - - - - - - -	-	-	-	7 3 9
							395 4 3

Appendix (A.)

No. 13.
Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

OUT-RELIEF.

(Fo. 7.) *Dr.*

DATE.	Folio of Minute Book.	Folio of Corresponding Credit.	ITEMS.	£. s. d.	TOTAL. £. s. d.
1835.					
May 6	3	8	TO J. Williams, Relieving Officer, as per his Weekly Expenditure Book - - -	16 7 –	
– 28	4	8	Ditto - - - - ditto - - -	15 17 6	
June 24	5	8	Ditto - - - - ditto - - -	27 3 –	
	6	8	Ditto - - - - ditto (Lunatics) - -	22 10 –	
					81 17 6

J. WILLIAMS, Relieving Officer.

(Fo. 8.) *Dr.*

				£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1835.					
April 22	2	16	TO Check on Treasurer - - - -	25 – –	
	3	9	J. Bull, Tickets on him - - - -	1 5 –	
May 28	4	9	J. Bull, Order of Guardians of 6th May -	1 5 –	
	–	9	Ditto, Tickets on him - - - -	– 1 8	
	4	16	Check - - - - - - -	25 – –	
	5	9	J. Bull, Order of 28th May - - -	2 10 –	
	–	6	Provision Account - - - - -	– 12 6	
	–	16	Check - - - - - - -	19 7 6	
	6	16	Ditto (Lunatics) - - - - -	22 10 –	
					97 11 8

J. BULL.

(Fo. 9.) *Dr.*

				£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1835.					
June 24	7	17	TO Balance - - - - - - -	5 1 8	
					5 1 8

CLOTHING ACCOUNT.

(Fo. 10.) *Dr.*

				£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1835					
June 24	5	16	TO Check, C. House, Linen, &c. - - -	35 – –	
	–	16	Ditto - E. Neale, Shoes - - - -	15 – –	
					50 – –

CONTRA. *Cr.* (Fo. 7.)

DATE.	Folio of Minute Book.	Folio of Corresponding Debit.	ITEMS.	£. s. d.	TOTAL. £. s. d.
1835.					
June 24	–	–	BY the following Parishes, as per Abstract of Parochial Relief Lists:		
	6	1	Bedminster - - - - - -	25 10 6	
	–	2	Clifton - - - - - - -	27 12 –	
	–	3	St. George's - - - - - -	19 7 –	
	–	4	Horfield - - - - - -	9 8 –	
					81 17 6

CONTRA. *Cr.* (Fo. 8.)

1835.				£. s. d.	£. s. d.
May 6	3	7	BY Out-relief, as per Weekly Expenditure Book	16 7 –	
– 28	4	7	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - -	15 17 6	
June 24	5	7	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - -	27 3 –	
	6	7	Ditto (Lunatics) - - ditto - - -	22 10 –	
					81 17 6
	7	17	Balance - - - - - - -	- - -	15 14 2
					97 11 8

CONTRA. *Cr.* (Fo. 9.)

1835.				£. s. d.	£. s. d.
May 6	3	8	BY J. Williams, Tickets - - - -	1 5 –	
	4	8	Ditto, Order of 6th May - - - -	1 5 –	
	–	8	Ditto, Tickets - - - - -	– 1 8	
June 24	5	8	Ditto, Order of 28th May - - -	2 10 –	
					5 1 8

CONTRA. *Cr.* (Fo. 10.)

1835.					£. s. d.
June 24	7	5	BY In-maintenance, the total transferred to -	- - -	50 – –

Appendix (A.)

No. 13. Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

(Fo. 11.)

ESTABLISHMENT.

Dr.

DATE.	Folio of Minute Book.	Folio of Corresponding Credit.	ITEMS.	£. s. d.	TOTAL. £. s. d.
1835.					
May 28	4	16	TO Check to Master of Workhouse for Funerals	- - -	4 6 -
June 24	5	-	Ditto, for the following Quarter's Salaries:		
	-	16	Master and Matron - - -	26 - -	
	-	16	Schoolmaster and Mistress - -	13 - -	
	-	16	Porter - - - - - -	5 - -	
	-	16	Clerk - - - - - -	20 - -	
	-	16	Chaplain - - - - -	10 - -	
	-	16	Auditor - - - - -	5 - -	
	-	16	Relieving Officer - - - -	20 - -	
	-	16	Surgeon - - - - -	25 - -	
					124 - -
	5	16	Ditto, for the following Bills, viz.		
	-	16	Heath, Bricklayer - - -	12 - -	
	-	16	Evans, Carpenter - - - -	8 - -	
	-	16	Cooper, Utensils - - - -	5 10 -	
	-	16	J. Rawlins, Furniture - - -	20 - -	
	-	16	W. Black, Ironmonger - - -	10 - -	
	-	16	C. Knight, Account Books - -	5 - -	
	-	16	J. Dean, Printing - - - -	15 - -	
	-	16	Cox, Advertisements - - -	1 15 -	
	-	16	Clerk, for Sundries - - -	20 5 -	
					97 10 -
	6	16	Ditto, Interest on Loan from Exchequer Loan Commissioners - - - -	- - -	100 - -
	-	16	Ditto to Bedminster, one Quarter's Rent of Workhouse - - - - - -	- - -	44 - -
	7	5	"In-maintenance," Master's Rations -	- - -	5 14 -
					375 10 -

(Fo. 12.)

INVOICE ACCOUNT.

Dr.

				£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1835.					
May 28	4	16	TO Check to T. Jones, his Bill, No. 1 Invoice	- - -	19 - -
	-	16	Ditto - E. Hancorne - - 2 —	- - -	17 - -
	-	16	Ditto - E. Webb - - 3 —	- - -	9 - -
June 24	5	16	Ditto - J. Wastie - - 4 —	30 - -	
			— - - 5 —	28 - -	
			— - - 6 —	36 - -	
					94 - -
	5	16	Ditto - J. Gordon - - 7 —	53 - -	
			— - - 8 —	48 4 -	
			— - - 9 —	61 12 6	
					162 16 6
	5	16	Ditto - H. Harben - - 10 —	6 5 -	
			— - - 11 —	3 12 6	
					9 17 6
	5	16	Ditto - A. Gardner - - 12 —	- - -	20 - -
	-	16	Ditto - T. Wood - - 13 —	10 - -	
			— - - 14 —	20 14 -	
					30 14 -
	5	16	Ditto - C. Blythe - - 15 —	- - -	32 16 3
					395 4 3

(Fo. 13.)

EXCHEQUER LOAN COMMISSIONERS.

Dr.

					£. s. d.
1835.					
June 24	6	16	TO Check for one-tenth of Loan repaid - -	- - -	200 - -
	7	17	Balance - - - - - - - -	- - -	1,800 - -
					2,000 - -

CONTRA. *Cr.* (Fo. 11.)

DATE.	Folio of Minute Book.	Folio of Corresponding Debit.	ITEMS.	£. s. d.	TOTAL. £. s. d.
1835.					
April 22	2	16	BY Treasurer, Profit on sale of Exchequer Bills		15 – –
June 24	5	16	Ditto, from Labour Account		72 10 –
					87 10 –
			The following Parishes, their respective Shares of the Balance, calculated by the Averages;		
	7	1	Bedminster	54 – –	
	–	2	Clifton	96 – –	
	–	3	St. George's	90 – –	
	–	4	Horfield	48 – –	
					288 – –
					375 10 –

CONTRA. *Cr.* (Fo. 12.)

1835.				£. s. d.	£. s. d.
May 6	3	6	BY Provision Account	144 5 –	
– 28	4	6	Ditto	76 4 –	
June 24	5	6	Ditto	174 15 3	
					395 4 3

CONTRA. *Cr.* (Fo. 13.)

1835.				£. s. d.
April 22	2	16	BY Treasurer, Exchequer Bills sold	2,000 – –

Appendix (A.)

No. 13. Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

MIGRATION ACCOUNT. *Dr.*

(Fo. 14.)

Date.	Folio of Minute Book.	Folio of Corresponding Credit.	ITEMS.	£. s. d.	Total. £. s. d.
1835.					
June 24	6	16	TO Check to Clerk for—		
			Petty Expenses - - - -	4 – –	
			Mr. Muggeridge, Manchester -	21 – –	
			Messrs. Pickford - - -	17 – –	
					42 – –

BUILDING ACCOUNT. *Dr.*

(Fo. 15.)

				£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1835.					
April 22	2	16	TO Check to the Contractor, on account of Workhouse, as per Architect's Certificate -	- - -	500 – –
					500 – –

THE TREASURER. *Dr.*

(Fo. 16.)

				£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1835.					
April 22	2	1	TO Bedminster, Order of 6th April - -	- - -	180 – –
	–	2	Clifton - - - - - - - -	- - -	320 – –
	–	3	Horfield - - - - - - -	- - -	160 – –
	–	13	Exchequer Loan Commissioners, Exchequer Bills sold - - - - - -	2,000 – –	
	–	11	Establishment, for Profits on Exchequer Bills - - - - - - - -	15 – –	
					2,015 – –
May 28	4	3	St. George's, Order of 6th April - -	- - -	300 – –
June 24	5	13	Establishment, from Labour Account -	- - -	72 10 –
					3,047 10 –

CONTRA. *Cr.* (Fo. 14.)

Date.	Folio of Minute Book.	Folio of Corresponding Debit.	ITEMS.	£. s. d.	Total. £. s. d.
1835.					
June 24	7	1	BY Bedminster, their share for 15 paupers -	15 – –	
	–	2	Clifton - - - - - - 27 — -	27 – –	
					42 – –

CONTRA. *Cr.* (Fo. 15.)

1835.					
June 24.			BY the following Parishes, their one-tenth Share of Exchequer Loan repaid:	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
	7	1	Bedminster - - - - - - -	37 10 –	
	–	2	Clifton - - - - - - - -	66 13 4	
	–	3	St. George's - - - - - - -	62 10 –	
	–	4	Horfield - - - - - - -	33 6 8	
					200 – –
	–	17	Balance - - - - - - -	- - -	300 – –
					500 – –

CONTRA. *Cr.* (Fo. 16.)

1835.				£. s. d.	£. s. d.
April 22	2	8	BY J. Williams - - - - - - -	- - -	25 – –
	–	15	Building Account - - - - - -	- - -	500 – –
May 28	4	8	J. Williams - - - - - - -	- - -	25 – –
	–	11	Establishment, Master of Workhouse -	- - -	4 6 –
	–	3	St. George's - - - - - - -	- - -	– 5 –
	–	4	Horfield - - - - - - -	- - -	– 15 –
	–	12	Invoice Account, T. Jones - - -	- - -	19 – –
	–	–	— E. Hancorne - -	- - -	17 – –
	–	–	— E. Webb - - -	- - -	9 – –
	5	8	J. Williams - - - - - - -	- - -	19 7 6
June 24	5	12	Invoice Account, J. Wastie - - -	- - -	94 – –
	–	–	— J. Gordon - - -	- - -	162 16 6
	–	–	— H. Harben - - -	- - -	9 17 6
	–	–	— I. Wood - - -	- - -	30 14 –
	–	–	— A. Gardner - - -	- - -	20 – –
	–	–	— C. Blythe - - -	- - -	32 16 3
	5	10	Clothing Account, C. House - - -	- - -	35 – –
	–	–	— E. Neale - - -	- - -	15 – –
	5	11	Establishment, Master and Matron - -	- - -	26 – –
	–	–	— Schoolmaster and Mistress -	- - -	13 – –
	–	–	— Porter - - - - -	- - -	5 – –
	–	–	— Clerk - - - - -	- - -	20 – –
	–	–	— Chaplain - - - -	- - -	10 – –
	–	–	— Auditor - - - -	- - -	5 – –
	–	–	— Relieving-officer - -	- - -	20 – –
	–	–	— Surgeon - - - -	- - -	25 – –
	–	–	— E. Evans - - -	- - -	8 – –
	–	–	— C. Heath - - -	- - -	12 – –
	–	–	— C. Knight - - -	- - -	5 – –
	–	–	— J. Dean - - - -	- - -	15 – –
	–	–	— Cox - - - - -	- - -	1 15 –
	–	–	— Clerk - - - - -	- - -	20 5 –
	–	–	— Rawlins - - - -	- - -	20 – –
	–	–	— Cooper - - - -	- - -	5 10 –
	–	–	— Black - - - -	- - -	10 – –
	6	8	J. Williams (Lunatics) - - - -	- - -	22 10 –
	7	14	Migration - - - - - -	- - -	42 – –
	–	11	Establishment, a year's interest - -	- - -	100 – –
	–	13	Exchequer Loan Commissioners - -	- - -	200 – –
	–	11	Establishment, rent to Bedminster - -	- - -	44 – –
					1,649 17 9
	7	17	Balance - - - - - - -	- - -	1,397 12 3
					3,047 10 –

Appendix (A.)

No. 13. Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

Dr. BALANCE.

(Fo. 16.

DATE.	Folio of Minute Book.	Folio of Corresponding Credit.	ITEMS.	— £. s. d.	TOTAL. £. s. d.
1835.					
June 24	7	1	TO Bedminster	37 18 9	
	–	2	Clifton	47 12 3	
	–	3	St. George's	– 19 3	
					86 10 3
	–	6	Provision Account	– – –	7 3 9
	–	15	Building Account	– – –	300 – –
	–	8	J. Williams	– – –	15 14 2
	–	16	Treasurer	– – –	1,397 12 3
					1,807 – 5

I have examined the several accounts of which this is the balance sheet, and the several subsidiary accounts applicable to them, and I have compared the several debits with the vouchers and the corresponding credits, and the balances herein with the balances in the provision and treasurer's books, and I do hereby certify that the entries appear to be correct and legal, and that the balance due from the treasurer (subject to the explanation below) corresponds with the balance appearing due from him by his own book. Dated the day of 183 .

D. G. A., Auditor.

Balance as per treasurer's book	£.1,697 12 3
Two checks to Exchequer Commissioners not presented	300 – –
Balance as above	1,397 12 3

— No. 14. —

No. 14. Forms prescribed in the Sale of Parish Property.

FORMS to be observed in regard to the Sale of Parish Property, under the Parish Property Act, 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 69.

Form No. 1.—REQUEST to the Guardians to apply to the Poor Law Commissioners to consent to Sale.

Parish of Union, county of

We, the undersigned majority of the parish officers, and we, the undersigned inhabitants of the parish of request you to apply to the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, for their consent to the sale of the undermentioned premises belonging to the said parish, and for their directions as to such sale, and for the application of the produce thereof to the permanent advantage of the said parish.

[Here describe the premises, stating whether the tenure is freehold, customary freehold, copyhold or leasehold, and whether subject to the payment of any quit-rent; also when and how the parish became possessed of the property, and if any trusts exist which affect the same; if property built upon waste land, state whether so built with the consent of the lord of the manor, and the date of such consent.]

The said premises cannot conveniently be used for the purposes of the said Union; and we are of opinion that the sale thereof will be of permanent advantage to the said parish, for the following reasons:—

[Here describe their condition, whether in a state of good repair or dilapidated; also in whose occupation, whether in that of paupers or not, or empty; and any other circumstances that may enable the guardians to judge of the desirableness of selling the property.]

The said premises are estimated to be of the value of
and yield an annual rent of

We are also of opinion that it will be advisable to apply the proceeds of the sale, after deducting the expenses thereof, in the following manner, to the permanent advantage of the parish:—

[Say whether as contribution to the Union workhouse, or to what other purpose; if to pay a debt, state when it was contracted, by whom, for what purpose, and how

Appendix (A.)

No. 13. Order for Keeping and Auditing the Union Accounts.

CONTRA. *Cr.* (Fo. 17.)

DATE.	Folio of Minute Book.	Folio of Corresponding Debit.	ITEMS.	—— £. s. d.	TOTAL £. s. d.
1835. June 24	7	4	BY Horfield - - - - - - -	- - -	1 18 9
	–	9	J. Bull - - - - - - - - -	- - -	5 1 8
	–	13	Exchequer Loan Commissioners - -	- - -	1,800 – –
					1,807 – 5

Note.—The Commissioners have made an arrangement, by which the Unions and the separate parishes may be supplied with books of accounts, prepared in the authorized forms, and also with the other documents, through Mr. Charles Knight, publisher, Ludgate-street, London, at a considerably cheaper rate than they have been hitherto furnished to the public; but if any of the books or forms of the same quality, or of equally good or better quality, can be obtained from any other sources at as low or at lower rates than those stated in the lists of prices which will be transmitted to you, they may be procured elsewhere.

No. 14. Forms prescribed in the Sale of Parish Property.

how such debt is secured; if to discharge a mortgage, state by whom and when created, the name of the mortgagee, and to what objects the money was applied.]

Dated this day of 183

} Churchwardens.

} Overseers.

} Inhabitants.

Form No. 2.—REQUEST to the Poor Law Commissioners for consent to Sale.

Parish of Union, county of

[Describe the premises, in the margin.]

We, the undersigned, majority of the guardians of the poor of the said Union, having received the annexed application from the majority of the parish officers, and from some of the inhabitants of the above parish, whereby we are requested to apply to the Poor Law Commissioners for their consent to the sale of the premises belonging to the said parish, described in the margin hereof, and for their directions as to the application of the produce thereof; and being fully satisfied that the sale thereof will be of permanent advantage to the said parish, do hereby request the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales to consent that we make sale of the said premises, under the provisions of an Act passed in fifth and sixth years of the reign of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act to facilitate the conveyance of Workhouses and other Property of Parishes and of Incorporations or Unions of Parishes in England and Wales;" and that they will issue such rules, orders or regulations touching such sale, and the conveyance of the said

Appendix (A.)

No. 14.
Forms prescribed in the Sale of Parish Property.

premises, and the application of the produce thereof, for the permanent advantage of the said parish, as they may see fit in that behalf.

Dated this day of 183

Witness,
Clerk to the Board of Guardians.

GUARDIANS' SIGNATURES.	PARISHES.

Form No. 3.—ORDER for convening Meeting.

Parish of Union, County of

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the above Parish.

We, the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, in pursuance of a request from the Guardians of the Poor of the above Union, made in pursuance of an application in that behalf from a majority of the parish officers and some of the inhabitants of the above parish, do hereby order you, within twenty-one days from the receipt hereof, duly to give notice of and convene a meeting of the rate-payers of the said parish, and owners of property therein entitled to vote, pursuant to the provisions of an Act passed in the fourth and fifth years of the reign of His present Majesty King William 4, intituled "An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales," for the purpose of obtaining the consent of such meeting to the Guardians of the Poor of the said Union selling the premises described in the margin hereof, under the provisions of an Act passed in the fifth and sixth years of the reign of His said Majesty, intituled "An Act to facilitate the conveyance of Workhouses and other Property of Parishes and of Incorporations or Unions of Parishes in England and Wales."

Given under our hands and seal of office this day of in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty

(*L. S.*)

Form No. 4.—LETTER to the Parish Officers, accompanying the Order for convening Meeting, and the Forms, 5, 6 and 7.

Poor Law Commission Office, 183 .

Parish of Union, County of

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish.

Gentlemen,—By the direction of the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, I transmit to you the following papers relating to the sale of certain premises, the property of your parish, and to which your attention is particularly directed.

They consist of

Copy of a request for such sale from the Guardians of the Poor of the above Union.

Order to you for convening a meeting of the rate-payers and owners of property in your parish to consent to such sale.

A form of notice of meeting, to be used by you, and to be given and affixed in like manner as vestry meetings are generally called in your parish.

A form of resolution to be put to the meeting giving such consent.

And, lastly, a form of certificate of the meeting having been duly held, and the resolution duly passed, to be signed by the minister and yourselves, and returned to the Poor Law Commissioners accompanied by attested copies of the notice of meeting and resolution.

With reference to the taking of votes at the meeting, you will be careful that the names of the rate-payers and owners of property, present in person, or (as respects owners) by proxy at such meeting, are duly entered in the vestry book. After the entry of the resolution, in the form herewith sent you will divide the page into two parts (or take two pages) one

Appendix (A.)

No. 14.
Forms prescribed in the Sale of Parish Property.

one for the entry of votes for the resolution, the other of votes against it; and the votes will be entered thus:

FOR THE ABOVE RESOLUTION.			AGAINST THE ABOVE RESOLUTION.		
NAME.	No. of Votes as Owner.	No. of Votes as Rate-payer.	NAME.	No. of Votes as Owner.	No. of Votes as Rate-payer.
A. B.	3	–	G. H.	4	–
C. D.	–	1	I. J.	5	–
E. F.	3	2	K. L.	–	4
&c.			&c.		

The amount of the two columns on each side being found, you will ascertain the majority by subtracting the one from the other in the usual way, the chairman having a casting vote in case of equality.

With reference to the owners of property who are entitled to vote, I have to call your attention to the Poor Law Amendment Act, section 40. And you are particularly enjoined to provide a book for the registry of the names of owners of the property, as required by that clause, or you will take care to add the names in the rate-books, so as to enable the chairman of the meeting to ascertain, by a reference to the register, what owners are entitled to attend in person or by proxy and vote at the meeting.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

E. Chadwick, Secretary.

Form No. 5.—(A.)—NOTICE of Meeting to consent to Sale of Workhouses, &c.

Parish of Union, county of

NOTICE is hereby given, that a meeting of the rate-payers in this parish, and of the owners of property therein entitled to vote in person, or (as respects owners) by proxy, pursuant to the provisions of an Act passed in the 4th and 5th years of the reign of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales," will be held at in this parish, on * the day of at in the forenoon, for the purpose of giving the consent of such meeting to the guardians of the poor of the said Union selling the following premises; that is to say,

under the provisions of an Act passed in the 5th and 6th years of the reign of His said Majesty, intituled, "An Act to facilitate the Conveyance of Workhouses and other Property of Parishes, and of Incorporations or Unions of Parishes in England and Wales," in such manner, and subject to such rules, orders and regulations, touching such sale, and the conveyance of such property, and the application of the produce arising therefrom, for the permanent advantage of the said parish, as the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales shall in that behalf direct.

Dated this day of 183

Minister.

} Churchwardens.

} Overseers.

Form No. 6.—(B.)—RESOLUTION entered in Vestry-Book.

Parish of Union, county of

AT a Meeting of the Rate-payers of the said Parish, and Owners of Property therein entitled to vote, pursuant to the Provisions of an Act passed in the 4th and 5th years of the reign of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and

* Three clear days' Notice is requisite.

[*Here describe the premises.*]

and Wales," held at in the said Parish, on the day 183 , pursuant to notice of such Meeting duly given.

Chairman.

It was resolved, by a majority of such rate-payers and owners, present in person or (as respects owners) by proxy at such meeting, that this meeting do consent to the guardians of the poor of the said Union selling the premises described in the margin hereof, under the provisions of an Act passed in the 5th and 6th years of the reign of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act to facilitate the Conveyance of Workhouses and other Property of Parishes, and of Incorporations or Unions of Parishes in England and Wales, in such manner, and subject to such rules, orders and regulations touching such sale, the conveyance of such property, and the application of the produce arising therefrom, for the permanent advantage of this parish, as the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales shall in that behalf direct.

Minister.
Churchwardens.
Overseers.

Form No. 7.—CERTIFICATE of MINISTER, CHURCHWARDENS, and OVERSEERS, of the Forms of Act having been complied with.

Parish of Union, County of

WE, the minister, churchwardens and overseers of the said parish, do hereby certify, that at a meeting of the rate-payers of the said parish, and owners of property therein, whose claims to be entitled to vote have been duly registered in the books of the said parish, held at in the said parish, on the day of the resolution, of which a true copy is hereunto annexed, was duly passed. And we do further certify and declare, that such meeting was duly convened and held for the purpose expressed in such resolution, after public notice of the time and place of holding such meeting, and the purpose for which the same was intended to be held, had been given in like manner as notices of vestry meetings are given in the said parish. And we do further certify, that the paper marked (A.)*, hereto annexed, and signed by us, is a true copy of the notice of such meeting, and that such notice was given in the church of the said parish on the day of and that a copy of such notice fairly written (or printed), was affixed on the day of on the principal door of the church (or chapel) of the said parish, and that the paper hereto annexed, marked (B.)†, and signed by us, is a true extract from the vestry books of the said parish.

Witness our hands, this day of 183

Minister.
Churchwardens.
Overseers.

Form No. 8.—DIRECTIONS for SALE, &c.

Poor Law Commission Office, 183

Parish of Union, County of

To the Guardians of the Poor of the above Union.

Gentlemen,

IN reply to your application, dated the day touching the sale of certain property of the above parish, I now transmit to you, by the direction of the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, the requisite consent of

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* No. 5. † No. 6.

of the rate-payers and owners of property in the said parish; and also an order directing you to proceed to such sale, in such manner as you may deem most expedient, subject, however, to the conditions of sale therein referred to, amongst such others as the circumstances of the case may require.

Such additional terms, should, of course, protect the parish and yourselves from the burthen of legal difficulties and costs, and ensure the benefit of the simplified modes of conveyance suggested by the recent Act. On receipt of the draft conveyance, you will forward it to the Poor Law Commissioners for their approbation; but if on its perusal, or on considering any other papers you may find necessary to submit to them, any professional expenses be incurred, they must be borne by the parish on whose behalf they will be incurred.

With reference to the application of any purchase-money, in this or any other instance, or the disposal of any property taken in exchange, such further order for the permanent advantage of the parish or union entitled thereto, shall be hereafter made as the Commissioners may see fit; and until such order be issued, the amount must be paid into the hands of the treasurer, and be placed by him to an account intituled "The Guardians of the Poor of the Union, in the matter of the sale of certain property belonging to the parish of ."

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

E. Chadwick, Secretary.

Form No. 9.—ORDER for Sale.

Parish of Union. Count of .

To the Guardians of the Poor of the above Union.

We the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, having received a resolution duly passed at a meeting duly convened of rate-payers and owners of property in the above named parish, entitled to vote, pursuant to the provisions of an Act passed in the 4th & 5th years of the reign of His present Majesty King William IV. intituled, "An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales," do hereby order you the guardians of the Union, in the count of within 30 days from the receipt hereof, to proceed to the sale of the premises described in the margin hereof, under the provisions of an Act passed in the 5th & 6th years of the reign of His said Majesty, intituled, "An Act to facilitate the conveyance of Workhouses and other Property of Parishes and of Incorporations or Unions of Parishes in England and Wales," in such manner as you the said guardians may deem expedient, subject nevertheless to the conditions of sale hereunto annexed, and to such other conditions as the circumstances of the case may appear to you to require. And we do hereby further order that the purchase monies to arise from such sale shall, after the payment of the expenses incidental thereto, such expenses to be allowed by you, be paid into the hands of the treasurer of the said Union, and be placed to the credit of the guardians of the said Union, to an account to be entitled, "The Guardians of the Union, in the matter of the sale of certain Premises belonging to the Parish of ," and that the said purchase monies shall be applied to such purposes, and in such manner as we shall by any order under our hands and seal of office direct.

Given under our hands and seal of office, this day of in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty-

(L.S.)

Form No. 10.—Conditions of Sale.

1. In case any purchaser shall be desirous of investigating the title, an abstract shall be prepared and furnished at his cost, and all expenses attending such investigation, or arising out of the same, or of completing the title, and the costs of procuring or making all official and other copies, or extracts, counterparts or duplicates of deeds, wills, or other documents, and of preparing, perusing and approving deeds of covenant, and the like, shall be paid by the purchaser to the vendors previously to or as the same shall be incurred, and the purchaser shall not be entitled to require any further investigation or evidence, while any previous expenses of, or connected with the investigation of the title or the evidence shall remain unsatisfied; nor shall the purchaser have any claim whatever for reimbursement, or be entitled to refuse or delay payment in respect of any expenses incurred in case the purchase shall not be completed; and the vendors shall not be required to do any act for completing the sale beyond obtaining the approbation by the Poor Law Commissioners and guardians, of the draft of conveyance, and the affixing of their respective seals to the conveyance when approved. But unless the purchaser shall, by writing under his hand or the hand of his solicitor, call for such abstract and state his intention of investigating the title within seven days from the day of sale, he shall be deemed to have waived his right to do so; and notwithstanding such abstract being called for, the purchaser shall be deemed to be satisfied with the title of the vendors, unless he shall have delivered to the

Appendix (A.)

No. 14.
Forms prescribed in the Sale of Parish Property.

vendors his objections to the title or requisition for completing the same, in writing, within 14 days from the delivery of such abstract.

2. The purchase money shall be paid to the treasurer of the Union, and the conveyance executed on or before the day of , and the purchaser on the payment of the purchase money and the execution of such conveyance shall be let into possession or become entitled to the receipt of the rents and profits, and the purchaser shall accept the receipt of such treasurer as a sufficient discharge.

3. In case the completion of the purchase shall from any reason whatever be delayed beyond the day of , the purchaser shall pay to the vendors interest after the rate of 5*l.* per cent. per annum on the amount of his purchase money unpaid, and shall not be entitled to any compensation on any pretext for his purchase money, or any part thereof, having been unproductive.

4. The seal of office of the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales affixed to any document shall be conclusive evidence as to all the facts therein stated or noticed, and as to the powers of the vendors as guardians of the Union.

5. In case of sale or exchange, no other covenant shall be required of the conveying parties, except one, that they have done no act to incumber the property disposed of.

6. If the purchaser shall neglect or fail to comply with the above stipulations, or any of them, or any part thereof, the deposit paid by him and all other payments previously made by, or due from the purchaser, under or in respect of the sale or of these conditions, shall be absolutely forfeited to the vendors, and they shall be at full liberty to re-sell the property either by public auction or by private contract, on such conditions of sale and in such manner as they shall think fit, and the deficiency (if any) occasioned by such second sale, together with all expenses attending the same, shall immediately after the same sale be made good to the vendors by the said purchaser at this sale, and in case of the non-payment of the same, the whole thereof shall be recoverable by the vendors as and for liquidated damages, and it shall not be necessary to previously tender a conveyance to the purchaser.

— No. 15. —

No. 15.
Workhouse Plans.

PLANS of an IMPROVED WORKHOUSE for the less Pauperised Districts.

(*Placed at the end of the Volume.*)

Appendix (B.)

GENERAL REPORTS OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

— No. 1. —

REPORT on the Administration, under the Poor Law Amendment Act, in *Suffolk* and *Norfolk*, by *James Phillips Kay*, Esq., M.D., Assistant Commissioner of Poor Laws.

To the Poor Law Commissioners.

Gentlemen, Norwich, 30 June 1836.

Maladministration prevalent previously to interference in Suffolk and Norfolk.

1. In the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk, where it has been my duty to superintend the execution of your rules and orders for the introduction of the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, though the modes of mal-administration of the laws for the relief of the poor, which existed previously to the interference of the Commission, were multiform, they may be conveniently referred to the two heads of parochial and corporate mismanagement.

Counties deeply pauperised.

2. Both these counties were deeply pauperised; the rates in the county of Suffolk being 18*s.* 10*d.* per head of the entire population, and those of Norfolk 16*s.* 4*d.*, notwithstanding the extent of its manufacturing and city population.

State of individual parishes.

3. In some parishes the annual expenditure for the relief of the poor has been found to amount to 50*s.* and upwards per head, and in very many it threatened to absorb the entire rental of the land. Wherever single parishes had striven against the prevalent mismanagement, though some partial and temporary advantage had, in particular instances, been obtained, the system which prevailed throughout the entire counties eventually triumphed over the wisdom and energy of individuals.

Source of errors.

4. The source of these errors appears to have been a misinterpretation of the statute of Elizabeth, similar to that which occasioned the enactment of the 22 Geo. 3, c. 83. It is ordained by this statute, that the overseers of the poor shall "raise, weekly or otherwise, a convenient stock of flax, hemp, wool, thread, iron, and other necessary stuff and ware, to set the poor on work," and hence appears to have arisen the practical misconstruction of the Act, that the overseers were bound to find work for the poor. It does not appear to have been understood that the words "set the poor on work," indicate the necessity of providing a check against imposture; of so regulating the relief to the unemployed, that, while none are permitted to perish, what is obtained from the parish shall be the fruit of labour less eligible than ordinary employment, and the condition of the pauper rendered in all respects less desirable than that of the independent labourer. Instead of this, the parishes have appeared to assume the responsibility to provide labour for the unemployed, and have entailed upon themselves the provision of comfortable subsitence for a population, whose interest it was to evade the terms by which the rewards of labour ought alone to have been obtained.

Early origin of errors in the principles on which relief was administered.

5. This error obtained currency at a very early period after the statute of Elizabeth had become law. I have in my possession a "case on the Act for the Relief of the Poor, submitted to the opinion of Mr. Serjeant Snigge," on the 1st of April 1604, presented to me by John Stracey, esq., of Sprowston, and in which, among others, the following query is put, which exhibits the prevalent errors in a curious and instructive light:

Curious inquiry of Mr. Sergeant Snigge, and his answer, in 1604.

"Qu. 6. It has been proposed by some of the parishioners, that in order to make the relief as impartial as possible, notice should be sent to the labourers in the parish, to give in each an account of what they are disposed to earn, and of their number in each family, and then to relieve them all with money by a scale to be fixed, so as that all may fare alike, whether industrious or idle, and whether they earn much or little: your opinion is entreated on this point."

6. The learned Serjeant falls into the error of conceiving that the overseers are bound to provide employment for the poor, and does not foresee the consequences. He replies as follows:

"I deem that this would be a perversion of the Act, so as to make it an incitement to vice and idleness. The industry of man must be awakened by the call of necessity, and if he who earneth little is to fare as well, and to have his family as plentifully kept as he who laboureth hard and earneth much, all inducement to labour among the poor will be taken away, and the realm will be rendered torpid by a grievous lethargy, as the Mantuan swan doth sweetly sing. Upon referring to the Act, the parish will see that it is the duty of the overseers, at their meetings, there to consider of some course to be taken for affording occupation to the poor, so as to enable them to maintain themselves and their families. If a labourer therefore, working with due diligence and industry, cannot (on account of any hurt received, or from feebleness of body, or from any other cause) earn sustenance for himself and for his family, he may be deemed impotent, that is, unable or not having the power to maintain himself and family; and as such, may come within the description in the preceding section, and be an object of pecuniary relief, but not otherwise."

This form of error prevailed in Suffolk and Norfolk.

7. The error described by Mr. Serjeant Snigge in the former part of his reply, that "he who earneth little is to fare as well, and to have his family as plentifully kept, as he who laboureth

laboureth hard and earneth much," is that form of administration which has hitherto prevailed in the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk, and I imagine it has in a great measure proceeded from following the advice that the overseers should "at their meetings consider some course to be taken for affording occupation to the poor, so as to enable them to provide for themselves and their families."

Ambiguity of law a source of error.

8. I cannot avoid remarking that the ambiguity of the clause of 43d of Elizabeth, which directs the overseers to "set the poor on work," has always appeared to me one great source of the misinterpretation of this statute, and consequently of the practical errors which have perverted the administration of the laws for the relief of the poor. Instructions on such subjects should lay down the principles upon which the law is to be administered with amplitude and precision, and should descend into such details of the manner in which these principles are to be carried into execution, as to prevent the possibility of misconception. Even then uniformity of action could not be secured, if the execution of the law were entrusted to an uncontrolled local authority. Aberrations from the path indicated by the Legislature, both in matters of principle and matters of detail, would constantly occur, which would impair, if they did not destroy, the efficacy of the remedial process prescribed by the law.

Responsibility to provide employment mischievous.

By assuming this responsibility to provide employment, doubtless it was expected that the overseers would be enabled to avoid a large portion of their responsibility to furnish the means of subsistence; whereas, by this act, they entailed upon themselves the responsibility of procuring the wages of labour for the entire population.

Terms of labour contract.

9. The terms upon which the independent labourer contracts with his employer are, that he shall exert his strength during certain hours of the day in his master's service; that he shall conduct himself with respectful obedience; that he shall preserve the property of his master from harm, and by a frugal use of his means endeavour to ensure his health, so that he may always be ready for his work. It is his interest to secure the continuance of his contracts also by the fulfilment of his domestic and social duties.

Terms of a parochial provision of labour.

When the parish assumes the responsibility to provide labour for the population, the employer and the labourer are placed in situations differing widely from those of the master and servant. The parish has assumed a responsibility which the master never sustained. It was the interest of the master to employ the poor, and it has become the legal duty of the parish. The contract cannot be dissolved by misconduct, by disobedience, by disrespectful demeanor, by the insobriety, turbulence, or open violence of the pauper. All those therefore who prefer licentious habits, and are disgusted with subordination, become at once the servants of the parish. The parish farm is, in my experience, like a convict colony, with this additional evil, that the system has a tendency to spread, until acre by acre the farm has absorbed the entire parochial area, and family by family the whole labouring population are become the discontented, dissolute, and turbulent servants of their bankrupt master, the parish.

How the responsibility to provide labour operates.

10. The responsibility to provide labour, I may be permitted briefly to state, operates thus: If the parish will provide occupation, the incentives to seek employment are removed. By degrees all come to the parish for employment and wages. Every motive to enterprise is at an end; none remove beyond the bounds of a parish which takes away every natural responsibility from its population. The tendency of the system is to inspire the labouring population with the desire, and to induce them to combine for the purpose of obtaining the reward of their labour (that is, comfortable subsistence), by an evasion of the ordinary terms of the labour contract. Thus the parish labourers gradually perform less and less work if employed on day labour, until they obtain the reward for a merely nominal exertion; or if the labour be task work, they endeavour by injuring the property of the parish, breaking the tools, by insolence, threats, or open violence, to disgust or intimidate their employers the overseers, so as to induce them to afford them the means of subsistence without labour. The system inevitably drags the entire population within its influence. The farm on which the parish labourers are maintained is subtracted from the land, for labour upon which the independent labourers contract; consequently there is less land for the support of independent labourers, and either the wages of their labour fall, or some of them become paupers. The labour of the pauper is less productive, and therefore the means for the maintenance of the population are diminished, and the number of those who must of necessity become paupers is increased. A large portion of the means thus earned are dissipated in such a way as to increase the contingencies affecting the pauper's family, and to augment their dependence. All who prefer the absence of responsibility, who wish to avoid labour, who live infrugal and dissolute lives, at once resort to the parish, and each one who does so increases the number of those who must reluctantly submit to the necessity of adopting the same course. Ere long all are paupers, bound to toil, but labouring with the reluctance of slaves and the turbulence of demoralized freemen, having a right to be maintained, and endeavouring to extort their right by the evasion of all the terms of the social compact, and the disruption of all its bonds.

Issue of this system.

11. Such a system must have an end, and that plan is more simple, which is quaintly described in the words of the querists, "That account should be taken of the labourers in the parish, and of what they are disposed to earn, and of their number in each family; and then to relieve them all with money by a scale to be fixed; so that all may fare alike, whether industrious or idle, and whether they earn much or little." This was the system which had obtained the preference in the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk, and I believe generally in the southern agricultural counties.

Direction in which attention of parishioners was attracted.

12. The object to which the attention of the parishioners appeared to be chiefly directed was the means by which each could avoid personal injury, or obtain a personal profit out of a public misfortune.

13. By

13. By the 22d George 3, c. 83, s. 32, it is enacted, "that where there shall be in any parish, township or place, any poor person who shall be able and willing to work, but who cannot get employment, it shall and may be lawful for the guardian of the poor of such parish, township or place, and he is hereby required, on application made to him by or on behalf of such poor person, to agree for the labour of such poor person or persons, at any work or employment suited to his or her strength and capacity;" "and to maintain or cause such person or persons to be properly maintained;" or, in other words, wheresoever "Gilbert's Act" was in force, the occupiers were invited to throw the labourers out of employment, in order that they might afterwards contract for their labour on lower terms. A similar clause is not unfrequently found in local Acts of Incorporation, inviting a conspiracy among the employers for the reduction of the wages of the labourers, and offering the assistance of the Incorporation in furtherance of so laudable an enterprize.

Spirit of some of the laws, 22 Geo. 3, c. 83, clause xxx, injurious to labourers.

Compulsory contracts for labour.

14. The following clause from the Act of Incorporation of the Colneis and Carlford hundreds, Suffolk, may serve as an example of this form of administration. "And be it further enacted, that the said directors and acting guardians at any of their quarterly meetings assembled, may, from time to time, if they think proper, contract with any person, whether resident within the said hundreds or not, for employing all or any of the poor persons within the said house of industry, upon such terms and conditions as the said directors and acting guardians shall think proper, every such contractor being subject to the rules and regulations made or to be made, relative to such poor persons, and to receive the profits of their labour (deducting thereout the gratuities payable to such poor persons as hereinafter mentioned), in part or in full of payment or satisfaction for the performance of such contract, so as no such contract shall be in force for a longer time than one year." This mode of introducing domestic slavery had the inconvenience of being too obvious to escape the detection even of an ignorant and pauperized population, and was therefore probably never practised to so great an extent as to render necessary the interference of authority.

Similar clauses in local Acts.

15. The same object has, however, been wrought out by slower and more insidious means. As soon as the scale allowance system was adopted in any parish, so that "all fared alike, whether industrious or idle," a struggle commenced among the occupiers, which had for its primary object the equal distribution of the rate, or the labour. In parishes where every labourer was paid from the poor-rate, or where, after a certain number per acre had been distributed among the occupiers by mutual consent, the rest were paid by the parish, the men thus receiving "scale pay" were employed as roundsmen, or allotted to the occupiers according to the extent of each occupation. Thus, in the parish of Great Melton, in Norfolk, after four labourers, for each 100 acres, had been allotted to each occupier, from 30 to 50 labourers remained, who were for some time paid the scale allowance, and permitted to saunter on the roads. The occupiers then determined to distribute them amongst themselves, that they might do some profitable work, but they were still altogether paid by the parish, though entirely employed by the farmers. In other parishes in the same county a similar system prevailed.

How the same pernicious results were attained without the sanction of law.

16. Before, however, the system had produced these, its natural results, various intermediate stages had been passed, in which a less equal distribution of the rate or of the labour paid by the rate had been procured, and at these successive stages, the greatest temptation was offered to each occupier to obtain as much as possible of the wages of his labourers from the poor-rate, in order that as little as possible of these wages might be contributed from his own resources. This temptation tended to establish a collusion between the labourer and his master, so that the labourer should be represented as not able to perform an ordinary day's work, and therefore not worth the usual wages of labour, in order that it might be required that his wages should be "made up to the scale." The representation once successful would of course be maintained, and an effort made, from time to time, to increase the number of those who might thus derive a portion of their wages from the poor-rate, on the plea that they were not able-bodied. The interest of the master was thus apparently promoted by transfering a part of his labourer's wages to the general fund; and the interest of the labourer appeared to be advanced by his obtaining a portion of his wages in the form of a pension from a permanent fund and independently of any labour performed, rather than receiving them from his master, as an uncertain reward for labour.

Intermediate stages of these errors described.

Plea of partial inability.

Mischievous consequences of the admission of this plea.

17. The temporary benefit accruing to the occupier by this insidious eucouragement of pauperism was purchased by most ruinous consequences. The effects of the fraud were not limited by the simple transfer of the wages to the poor-rate, the labourer became a less industrious, obedient and frugal man. The process adopted to accomplish the same result was sometimes bolder, but without ingenuity. A gentleman in a parish of the Cosford Incorporation, which paid about 1,000*l.* per annum to the poor, observed, soon after he first came to the parish, an entry in the overseer's book, which occurred from quarter to quarter, thus, "out-allowance," followed by the entry of a sum of 30*l.* or 35*l.* in the quarter. He ventured at the vestry meeting to suggest, that a more minute and literal account of the application of these monies should be given. So utterly had the system perverted in the minds of the parishioners all notions of right, that he was, without hesitation, informed by the principal occupier, that this "out-allowance" was a disbursement customarily made by himself, and whether in office as overseer or not, and upon being requested, he furnished a paper which I have in my possession, from which it appears that the greater part of a sum of 79*l.* thus entered in three quarters of one year consisted of payments to his own labourers for what was called "lost time," or for the rent of his own cottages.

This fraud in a more aggravated form.

18. The more remote consequences of the system were more disastrous. In many parishes a surplus population accumulated, which it was impossible to remove. The labourers had been taught to cling inveterately to the parish allowance, as though it were a mortgage on

Remoter consequences. Surplus population.

Appendix (B.)

Report of *J. Phillips Kay*, Esq. M.D.

Introduction of exotic manufactories to employ surplus population; injustice to labourers caused thereby.

the land. The parishes were certainly very indulgent to absentees, but the resident pauper presented a claim which could not be repelled. He might be deemed a proprietor of the poor-rate, with an early process of foreclosure in prospect, for the more effectual enjoyment of the estate, whence the fund was derived. When this population had accumulated to such an extent as to render the absorption of the rental of the parish a danger so imminent as to rouse the most supine, defensive operations were commenced. Sometimes a manufacturer was invited to establish a manufactory in the parish, and, practically, the 32d clause in Gilbert's Act was carried into execution, because the labourers were obliged by the force of circumstances to accept such wages as the manufacturer was ready to offer in his mill, since they were at length refused any other resource by the parish. It is evident that no manufacturer would risk his capital in a rural district, remote from the market and from mechanists who supply and repair his machines, unless he were allured by the temptation of obtaining labour so much below the wages of the manufacturing districts as to ensure the success of his enterprize. The system which chains the labourer to the soil, therefore, consummates its mischief by selling his labour below the market price.

Monstrous powers of some Incorporations respecting compulsory labour contracts and apprenticeship.

19. Most of the incorporations are empowered to let out the poor "to be employed in harvest work, or any other work suitable to their strength and ability, for such time and at such wages as shall be agreed upon." Moreover, the directors and acting guardians are generally empowered, with consent of two justices of the peace, to bind out as apprentices "any poor children whose parents the said directors and acting guardians shall judge not able to maintain them, to be apprentices for any term not less than three nor more than seven years." In other words, these authorities were invested with power to interfere with the domestic ties of parents and children for a series of successive years. In the extremity of embarrassment, the defensive operations adopted by the parish were coercive, and made progressive inroads on the privileges and rightful rewards of the labourer. The system which commenced with a charity of design so liberal as to offer the means of subsistence to all, without discrimination or check, but on the simple plea of need; which clothed the naked, fed the hungry, housed the homeless, tended the sick, and assumed the parental duties from the birth of the child, providing for its maintenance, clothing, education and apprenticeship to a useful trade, was constrained to terminate its career by the adoption of coercive measures, destructive of the interests of the labouring class. The plan which proposed to give wages independently of labour at length deprived the labourer of his wages for the payment of the pauper.

Imposture among labourers; "pauper malingerers."

20. In other respects the effects of the system on the labouring population were not less disastrous. The facility with which, as I have previously observed, the plea of partial inability was admitted by the occupiers, in order that a portion of the wages of the labourer might be derived from the poor-rate, was a premium on imposture. The examinations which I have conducted before boards of guardians have detected numerous cases of "malingerers," who, on the plea of physical infirmity, had for years imposed upon the parishes.

Evil moral consequences.

Physical degeneracy.

21. The claim to support, independently of all merit, of all activity of mind or body, of all frugality, and notwithstanding the wilful and profligate waste of means, having been established, promoted apathy, indolence, profligacy, and the actual perpetration of physical injury in some cases, in order to increase the claims for relief. In the absence of the scale allowance, marriages among cripples, the victims of scrophula and other hereditary taints would have been more rare, and the transmission of such deformities and maladies less frequent. Moreover, when apathy and physical inertness are encouraged, a more general neglect of cleanliness and a less careful provision for the household prevail. The independent and pauperised poor may be thus compared. The wife of a pauper is more generally a slattern; her cottage less cleanly; the children fed on more meagre food; and the habits of the father more profligate, than those of the industrious labourer. The tendencies of such defects in the domestic and social condition of the class are, the spread of physical degeneracy, and I am prepared to find that statistical documents will prove, that a pauper population contains more idiots; more victims of scrophula; more defective and helpless beings; and that the children die younger than in a population that has "*cæteris paribus*," not been maintained upon the scale allowance.

The reward of labour should be defined with precision.

In proportion as the reward of labour is definite, as the terms of the labour contract are exact, and their fulfilment is guaranteed by the prompt and impartial exercise of the powers of the executive, will be the security and peace of society. The more intimate and close the connection between the employer and the labourer, the greater will be the strength and compactness of the social body. Whatever tends to interfere with this relation, to impair the integrity of this union, weakens the social structure. When this connection is dissolved the social compact seems virtually at an end among the mass, and external force alone can sustain what was hitherto cemented by internal cohesion.

Social order disturbed and property rendered insecure by this system.

22. The public peace can be assured only by the due subordination of the various classes of society. As soon as wages could be obtained from the overseer without labour, the natural and useful relation of the labourer to his employer was destroyed; the terms of the contract for labour were dissolved; the docility and respectful demeanor of the servant gradually diminished. His wages did not depend on the fulfilment of his duty to his master, on the care with which he performed his work, preserved his property, and avoided disturbing social order; on the contrary, threats and violence often extorted what submission failed to obtain; and when the embarrassments of the system had accumulated, nightly depredations and incendiarism spread to such an extent as to rouse the Government to interfere by special commissions to suppress the progress of intimidation.

State of particular parishes.

23. Some parishes were completely disorganised by the effects of this maladministration. I may

I may select, as examples, the parishes of Snape, Friston, Sudbourne and Iken, in the Plomesgate Union.

State of parishes of Snape, Friston, Iken and Sudbourne.

24. A combination of circumstances had assisted the natural operation of the system here. The game on the estates in the vicinity had been very strictly preserved. The neighbouring coast was some time ago the favourite haunt of smugglers, whose operations were facilitated by the form of the rivers by which it is indented, and the character of the shore. In process of time, therefore, these parishes, assisted by the allowance system, have accumulated within their limits a lawless population of paupers, disbanded smugglers and poachers, who extorted the scale allowance from the reluctant overseers by threats of violence.

Conduct of paupers of these parishes.

25. It has been customary with boards of guardians in Suffolk to summon the most unruly and disorganised parish of the Union before them on the first day of examination. Accordingly, in the Plomesgate Union, the parish of Snape was first summoned before the board. The paupers entered the board room in the most insulting manner; several declared they would not work at 1*s.* 2*d.* per day (the wages of the district), and demanded scale allowance. Two presented themselves in a state of gross intoxication; one of them was supported into the room by two men. Two of them, notorious poachers, assaulted a butcher at the door of the inn where the board met, and were subsequently summoned before the magistrates at Woodbridge and fined 30*s.* each, which they instantly paid, to avoid imprisonment—they had been in receipt of full scale allowance. The guardians as they returned home in the evening were ferociously threatened as they passed through the parish.

Assault on guardian and relieving officer, &c

26. Subsequently the relieving officer (Garrard), and the guardian, Mr. Easter, were violently assaulted whilst distributing relief to the paupers in the church, and actually thrust out by some of the most desperate. The magistrates of the division, upon receiving Mr. Easter's complaint, deemed it prudent to afford him the protection of constables; and the occurrences of one night spent by these officers in the village of Snape give so lively a description of the disorganised state of this parish, that I think it material to insert at full length the evidence of Robert Barnes, officer to the sheriff, Woodbridge.

Deposition of Robert Barnes.

27. "I, the undersigned, Robert Barnes, was, on Saturday last, requested by three county magistrates, viz. Andrew Arcedeckne, esq., Frederick White, esq., and George Thomas, esq., to proceed to the parish of Snape that day, in company with John Easterbrook, James King and two special constables, for the protection of the lives and property of Mr. Easter (the guardian of the parish of Snape), and Mr. Tyrrell (the overseer of that parish). These two gentlemen had reported that on their way to the magistrates at Woodbridge to lay an information against certain paupers of the parish of Snape, who had assembled and grievously maltreated Mr. Easter (the guardian), and had assaulted the relieving officer, they were met on their way from Snape to Woodbridge by a body of 15 or 20 paupers, who threatened them with violence if they persisted in their design. The guardian and the overseer were obliged to retreat, and make a circuit of five miles before they could appear at Woodbridge to lay their information. Several of the paupers (said to be 14 or 15 in number) were observed by Mr. Easter's brother to be lying in wait for the guardian and the overseer on their way home at night; but fortunately they escaped this danger by accidentally returning by another road. I and the above-mentioned officers escorted the gentlemen home on this same evening (Saturday, 19th December), and remained in the parish of Snape during Saturday night and Sunday. The Crown-inn, where we lodged, was immediately filled with paupers. These men seemed to be summoned by the discharge of a gun, which signal we heard on our entrance into the village. The gun was discharged in the yard of the inn.

"In half an hour afterwards the paupers assembled in the inn. Fire-arms, apparently fowling-pieces, were discharged under the windows of the inn, on five several occasions, during the evening. Once a double-barrelled gun was discharged.

"It is believed by the inhabitants of the parish that there are at least 30 air-guns in this parish. The parish is chiefly inhabited by poachers. I am deliberately of opinion that there are at least 80 or 100 guns in this parish, including air-guns. The wild-fowl shooting and poaching on gentlemen's premises is more common in this parish than in any other part of the county.

"A man named Robert Cook, a pauper and well-known poacher, entered the room where I and the other officers were sitting, and inquired whether we had not warrants against some of the other men who assaulted Mr. Easter and the relieving officer.

"Perceiving that their assemblage originated in an apprehension of this sort, I told them that we had no warrants. Cook then replied that he did not believe me, but that if I wanted to go away with a whole skin, I had better not try to take one man away, as they did not intend that one man should be taken from the parish. He added that if they had had any notice, the man who had been apprehended by King, the Saxmundham constable, should not have been removed, and that they were within five minutes of getting to the rescue. Immediately after this man left the room, a gun was fired outside, close to the window. John Easterbrook, one of the officers, having gone into the kitchen to listen to their conversation, being selected to do this because he was a stranger, he, J. E., was struck by Robert Cook with the back of his hand across the face; Cook at the same time offered to fight the officer, or any other of the party, and was evidently anxious to raise a row.

"About half-past three we went to bed, and the paupers then left the house; but before we had risen in the morning, they had assembled again. We saw Robert Cook shoot, with a double-barrelled gun, at a couple of pigeons, one of which fell.

"The paupers remained in the public-house during the whole of Sunday—when we left at noon they were still there.

"Witness my hand, this 22d day of December 1835.

(signed) *Robert Barnes.*"

 28. Whether

Subsequent conduct of paupers.

28. Whether the number of guns supposed to exist in this parish are actually there or not, the general bearing of the testimony exhibits a strange picture of lawless violence and insubordination. On a subsequent occasion the paupers succeeded in persuading the relieving officer to make them a money contribution, by threatening to rob him of all the funds in his possession, and savagely maltreat him if he refused.

The operation of the new measures has introduced order into those lawless parishes. The officers are now received with respect and gratitude. The rates are exceedingly reduced; and some of the more respectable rate-payers have assured me that they now enjoy a sense of security which they had not experienced before the change in the administration of the law.

29. In some parishes the gravel-pits were scenes of disorder and proflicacy, where plots were laid against the property and persons of the overseers.

Paupers of Mildenhall.

The Houses of Lords and Commons in a gravel-pit.

In the parish of Milldenhall the paupers had facetiously formed themselves into two bodies, which they denominated the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The House of Commons was engaged at the bottom of the pit, loosening the hard earth, digging the gravel, and throwing it up to the Lords, who were placed above them, and were occupied in sifting the refuse, and throwing what was useful to the top of the pit. Doubtless these houses of legislature agreed on many things which conduced to the maintenance of public order and the promotion of the pauper weal.

Pauper frauds.

30. In a system which offered so large a bounty on fraud, the paupers were not backward in possessing themselves of as large a portion of the poor-rate as possible by the practice of imposture. The plans of deception adopted were numerous.

Concealment of sources of income, and property.

One of the most common consisted in the concealment of the sources of income, or of property possessed by the pauper. The examination of the applicants for relief in their own cottages by the relieving officers has obstructed many of these sources of imposition.

Case of an old couple in Bury St. Edmunds.

31. From several similar examples I select a catalogue of the effects of an old couple who had been for four years dependent on the poor-rates of Bury St. Edmund's (having received 4*s.* per week during this period), and which goods were seized by the guardians of the Incorporation, and sold at the workhouse, in order to reimburse them for the cost of maintaining the paupers. This sale was not effected without considerable excitement among some humane persons, who entered with such warmth into the defence of the paupers against the intended aggression of the guardians, as to deny the existence of the property claimed by the Incorporation. These charitable gentlemen did not anticipate that as far as the paupers were concerned the results of the sale of their property would be as is stated by Mr. Cobbing, viz. that he had "obtained for the old couple 9*s.* per week of their own money, instead of 4*s.* per week from the parish; 10*l.* down in cash, and a comfortable cottage in which to spend the remainder of their days, in lieu of one of the most miserable residences that can well be imagined." Nor do I suppose they expected that as far as the interests of the rate-payers were concerned, the proceeds of the sale would be, as published by Mr. Cobbing, as follows:

	£.		
"Sale of two tenements by private tender, realized an allowance, as I am now credibly informed, equivalent to the sum of - - - - - - - -	180	–	–
"Sale by auction of furniture, &c. by Mr. Lock - - - - - -	11	6	9
"Ditto by Mr. Hunter at the workhouse - - - - - - -	43	–	–
	£. 234	6	9

"In addition to which, duplicates for silver at the pawnbrokers, and the furniture restored to the paupers, are not included in the amount."

Among the articles seized, Mr. Cobbing particularly enumerates "six bureaus and chests of drawers. The old woman had 10 gowns and 12 petticoats, although she chose to remain the picture of misery and want. She had also 25 pairs of stockings; yet within a few weeks they had wickedly received from the Rev. Mr. Hasted two pairs of stockings, the gift of some charity. They had 10 Bibles: two of these Bibles, three Prayer-books and one Testament, they had obtained from the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, quite new, and had apparently never been opened. This shameless and unprincipled perversion of charitable donations is only to be paralleled by the case of a man whom I discovered to have 10 charity blankets in pawn at Mr. Haddock's, although holding a pension of 9*s.* a week, and at the same time receiving charitable relief."

Case in Hoxne union.

I was informed by Mr. Frewer, the vice-chairman of the Hoxne Union, that on committing to prison for misdemeanor a pauper of one of the parishes (who had been in receipt of full 'scale allowance'), 17 sovereigns were found sewed in the lining of his waistcoat.

Cottage owners.

Exorbitant rents derived by payments for for cottage rents.

32. Among other persons who contrived to draw a revenue from the distribution of parochial relief, were the owners of cottage property. The amount paid by some parishes to grasping cottage proprietors was almost incredible. This was one of the crying abuses of the parochial administration in the city of Ipswich. The amount of rents annually paid in St. Margaret's parish, Ipswich, was, upon an average of five years, 464*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*, and the rates excused every year during the same period amounted to 300*l.* In St. Clement's parish, Ipswich, the annual amount of rents was at least 500*l.*; the rates excused every year, upon an average of six years, were 428*l.* 15*s.*, besides a great number included in a column of "Poor," from whom no effort was made to collect the rates. The amount of rents paid to the proprietors of cottages in Ipswich could not be estimated at less than 2,000*l.* per annum in an annual average expenditure of 13,000*l.*, nominally for the relief of the poor. The rates uncollected were at least 1,500*l.* The proprietors of cottages were thus enabled to obtain a much greater return from their property than was yielded by any other buildings, and the

poor

poor were obliged to resort to the parish for the payment of these exorbitant rents, and thus familiarized with pauperism.

Prudent course pursued by Ipswich board of guardians.

33. The board of guardians of the Ipswich Union have proceeded with equal prudence and firmness to disallow these claims, in such a way as to graduate the pressure on the poorer classes, and thus to rescue them, even without much temporary inconvenience, from this form of oppression. That this process should have occasioned some excitement among interested individuals is not a legitimate subject of surprise; but the experience of the Commission proves that the poorer classes have such a love of order, as seldom or never to resist the operation of the law, unless encouraged and excited to popular violence by members of the middle classes, who have an interest in some abuse which is levelled by the interference of authority.

General cause of tumults during progress of the amendment of the modes of administering relief.

34. In almost every instance of tumultuary disposition among the labourers in Suffolk and Norfolk, I have been enabled to trace, by satisfactory evidence, this tendency to breaches of the peace or to open riot, to the private or open instigation of some one or more of the middle classes who had instigated this movement against the operation of the law, or had more covertly encouraged its progress and developement. I forbear to indicate the particular examples in this report, solely because I do not wish to prevent the salutary operation of that conviction of the mischievous tendency of these efforts, and of their utter impotence, which must long ere this have inspired their authors with a wish to co-operate in furthering the success of the new measures, rather than in efforts to retard their beneficial influence.

The parochial poorhouses.

35. The parochial mismanagement appeared in concentrated impurity in that receptacle of age, vice, disease and infirmity, the parish poorhouse. These houses I generally found to be almost ruinous structures of lath and plaster, built without design, and totally destitute of convenience. They were usually exposed to the public road of the village, or to the waste, or to the churchyard, without any enclosure, or they were at best only defended by a fence or quickset hedge. In the interior, the aged and infirm and the infants, were promiscuously mingled with sturdy able-bodied paupers, idiots and the sick, in groups which presented to the eye only a picture of common misery or depravity. In such houses the aged and infirm were tormented by their co-mates in want; the sick were left to waste the wretched remnant of their lives with little care or sympathy; the able-bodied pauper lounged in listless apathy with the idiot over the fire. The sexes could scarcely be said to separated at night in the miserable and ill-arranged apartments. The children had no school, but marauded in the neighbouring fields. The rest of the mass festered in idleness and vacancy.

Amount of the poorhouses of the Ipswich parishes.

36. The following account of the Ipswich parochial poorhouses was published in the "Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the present state of the poor and the workhouses in the town of Ipswich," in the year 1822:

"The houses in the town of Ipswich in which the poor are provided have, in most instances, been formerly occupied as dwelling-houses, and were engaged by the parish officers as occasion required, without regard either to situation or convenience, and they are consequently very ill adapted to the reception of inmates of different ages, sexes and habits, because they are necessarily on so limited a scale, that it is impossible to separate the poor into classes, by which means alone their labour can be made available and productive. In the houses of St. Margaret and St. Matthew, recent improvements have remedied the most disgusting and promiscuous intermixture in the sleeping-rooms; and in the former house the aged and infirm poor, the women and young children, are separated from the boys and able-bodied men both by day and night; but this is the only attempt at classification in the workhouses of Ipswich. In the other parishes, the aged, infirm, infants, young women, boys and men associate together during the day, and can hardly be said to be separated during the night, the sleeping rooms being very unsuitable, and incapable of proper division."

Evidence of Ebenezer Gooding.

37. The evidence delivered to me by Ebenezer Gooding, governor of St. Clement's workhouse, Ipswich, states that before the declaration of the Ipswich Union, the females used to escape from that workhouse, and spend their nights in the town; and I have, on several occasions, discovered the parish poorhouse inhabited by females who, while living within its walls as a permanent asylum, had become the mothers of four or five illegitimate children, which they had affiliated on different fathers. I may particularly indicate as examples the poorhouses of some of the seaward parishes of the Plomesgate Union.

The Houses of Industry of the Incorporated Hundreds of Suffolk and Norfolk.

Impolicy of committing the execution of great general principles solely to local management, exemplified in the History of Incorporations for the Relief of the Poor.

38. The experience of the effects of unassisted local administration, in the management of the houses of industry of the Incorporated Hundreds of Suffolk and Norfolk, exhibits the impolicy of committing solely to local authority the care of establishments in the government of which the application of one pervading principle of management is to be ensured. The modes of management adopted in these Incorporated Hundreds, notwithstanding the fact that the general principles of the original acts of incorporation are the same, became capriciously dissimilar. This dissimilarity may be traced in the relaxation of the authority of the board of directors and acting guardians: the degree in which the parochial management was substituted for the central control of the Hundred, the extent to which the allowance system was admitted, the principles upon which the allowance was regulated, the nature of the bye-laws concerning apprenticeship, the regulation of the discipline of the house of industry, the uses to which it was applied, and in almost every other respect in which it was possible to establish a diversity of management. In one respect the whole of these Incorporations agreed, viz. in a departure from the principles of management on which they were originally founded, and the substitution of some new form of administration of relief, referable to other

The control of the Legislature proved to be insufficient to ensure uniformity.

The Legislature yielded to the caprice of each petitioning Incorporation.

principles than those indicated by the first Act of incorporation. The control of the Legislature was not sufficient to ensure uniformity, even in the degree of aberration from the original Acts, but it appears to have yielded to the importunity of each Incorporated Hundred in the successive Acts which were granted to regulate the local management. To one Incorporation an Act of dissolution was granted, to another an Act to restore parochial management, to others Acts to regulate by new methods the election of directors and acting guardians, to procure the calculation of the assessments on new principles, to give most various powers for the management of the system of compulsory apprenticeship, to restrain or enlarge the powers of the directors and acting guardians, or *vice versâ*, the authority of the churchwardens and overseers in ordering relief to poor persons within the walls of the house of industry; to regulate the application of labour-rates, compulsory contracts for the labour of the unemployed, and every other form of the allowance system, according to the views of the particular petitioning Incorporation.

The force of law in the local Acts insufficient to ensure uniformity of action.

39. Even had the Legislature refused to concede its sanction to this most extraordinary diversity in the principles and details of the local management, it would have been impossible, by the influence of the local Acts, to have ensured uniformity of management, so long as the local boards were the only means existing to procure this result. Upon inquiry in the various Incorporations, I discovered that, in some of them large portions of the Acts of incorporation had fallen into desuetude; in others customs had been adopted in the government of the Hundred house, and in the parochial management, by no means in conformity with the local Act. Powers had been conferred on the directors and acting guardians which had never been resorted to in one Incorporation, but which were in active operation in others.

Illustrations of these remarks.

40. By way of illustration, I may state a few of the differences in management which I observed. In the government of the Hundred house, the extent to which the manufacturing system was conducted was most various; the degree of classification of the inmates; the dietary, &c. The Loddon and Clavering Hundreds house was nearly full of inmates; this may represent one class of houses. Another class was invariably almost empty from disuse. In the Tunstead and Happing, the Fleggs, the Loddon and Clavering, the Mutford and Lothingland and Wangford incorporations, the board of directors and acting guardians retained their authority over the parochial officers, who attended the meetings of the weekly committee, and received orders concerning the distribution of relief. In most of the other Incorporations, the out-door relief (which was almost the sole remaining system), was entirely parochial, and was conducted without the interference of the board. The diversities of management, in the system of compulsory apprenticeship, will be exhibited in a subsequent part of this report; and other incidental illustrations of this subject will occur, rendering it unnecessary for me to exhibit a greater number of facts in this place.

The working of principles of national, and not merely local importance, should not be committed to local authority alone.

41. These results appear to me to exhibit the impolicy of committing solely to local authority the government of establishments, in the careful management of which is involved the illustration of principles of national importance, and the success or failure of which involves, not the interests of a particular locality only, but promotes or retards operations affecting the common weal. Such a local authority is prone to generalise on events occurring within a limited sphere of observation, and allows impressions, thus received, to interfere with the operation of the law. A local board is subjected to the influence of local prejudices, to the interference of local interests, to the obstructions arising from personal jealousies and party spirit. Such an authority, if entrusted with the working of principles the relations of which are not less of general than local importance, may commence its career with the most pure intentions, but will be found, by a gradual and almost imperceptible degeneracy, to have arrived at results marring the uniformity of the general operations, and rendering its own proceedings a mass of incongruous aberrations. The fault is not to be ascribed to individuals; and the board, which consists of a succession of members, cannot incur the weight of the responsibility without this palliative consideration, that the system of unrestrained local management, applied to the regulation of details, in which, for the national well-being, the faithful and uniform application of one pervading principle of action is necessary, is itself as vicious as that of an irresponsible central power.

The system adopted for the administration of relief to the poor, under the Poor Law Amendment Act, avoids both these extremes. The local management is not without restraint; the central power is responsible, and is subjected to the authority of Government, and of the Houses of Legislature.

Such an error would inevitably be followed by ruin.

42. To commit the administration of the relief of the poor to unrestrained local management in future, would appear to me an exhibition of neglect of the principles developed by the results of former mal-administration, so reckless as to deserve the infliction of the ruin which would inevitably, ere long, be the consequence of such an error.

The local boards will have abundant occupation in the execution of the regulations.

43. The local boards will find abundant occupation in administering the law, in applying general principles to the details of action, both in ordinary circumstances and emergencies. Within those limits is a wide scope for the exercise of judgment and skill, wherein the central power would find no ground for interference, so long as the executive authority acted consistently with the letter and spirit of the statute. The aberrations must however be restrained, and in preventing these, a controuling and assisting power would be usefully and actively employed.

Causes of the failure of the old houses of industry.

44. The Houses of industry of the old incorporations owed their failure, partly to the want of a general controlling authority, and partly to the original defects of their constitution.

Defects of their theory.

45. The chief original defects of their theory and management were:—

They proceeded on the assumption that a considerable extent of re-

They proceeded on the supposition that a considerable extent of relief to the able-bodied classes was inevitable, if not absolutely necessary. The conception that a workhouse might be so regulated as to become a check to vice and imposture, and an incentive to industry and virtue

virtue so powerful as to accomplish the total disallowance of out-door relief to the able-bodied, without any considerable number of persons being obliged or willing to accept a maintenance within its walls, does not appear to have been, at any time, realized by the projectors of the Hundred houses of industry.

lief to the able-bodied was absolutely necessary.

46. The preamble of the original Acts of these Incorporations is generally in these terms:

Preamble of local Acts.

"Whereas the poor in the Hundred of —— in the county of —— are very numerous, and are maintained and supported at a great expense by the respective parishes:

"And whereas the granting of proper powers for the better government and regulation of the poor in the said Hundred, and providing a place for their general reception, will tend to the more effectual relief and assistance of such as by age, infirmities or diseases are rendered incapable of supporting themselves by their labour; to the better employment of the able and industrious; to the correction and punishment of the profligate and idle; and to the education of poor children in religion and industry; and thereby the poor, instead of being wholly supported by the public, may contribute to the support, assistance and relief mutually of each other, and be of some advantage to the community, to which they have hitherto been only a heavy and grievous burthen; May it please your most Excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted, &c."

47. The hypothesis of management contained in this preamble is, that, whereas there are many idle and profligate and some industrious poor who are wholly supported by the public, and have hitherto been only a heavy and grievous burthen, it is desirable that some profit be derived from their labour, so that they may contribute to the support, assistance and relief mutually of each other, and be of some advantage to the public; and that it is expedient for this purpose, that powers be given to the directors and acting guardians, and a Hundred house erected. It is distinctly contemplated that those who had hitherto remained chargeable to the parishes would chiefly remain chargeable to the Incorporation, but it is proposed that the expense of their maintenance should be diminished by the profit derived from their labour in the House of industry, and with the attainment of this result the theory is satisfied. A House of industry was therefore a manufactory or farm by which it was attempted to obtain a profit from the labour of the unemployed poor. The idle and profligate were to be subjected to some correction and punishment which would have been more safely and effectually administered by the magistrate; and these penal regulations on idleness and profligacy, and schemes for the employment of the able and industrious could not work well together, so as to afford encouragement alone to the one class, and correction to the other.

Hypothesis of management contained in the preamble of these local Acts, was to make a profit of the labour of the unemployed by setting them to work.

48. That the idle and vagabond children of the poor should be instructed in religion and industry was a laudable design, but was a second complication of the relief of the physical wants of the poor with the means to be adopted for the spread of religion, good morals, and useful knowledge.

Complication of instruction, correction and profit.

49. Experience, as I shall have more fully to exhibit, soon proved that the sagacity and skill of individuals, stimulated by the hope of personal gain, and the fear of personal loss, is essential to commercial enterprize, which is seldom or never successful in corporate management, excepting in the working of a monopoly.

Commercial success depends on individual sagacity, stimulated by personal interest.

50. The relief of the poor should be so administered as to prove an incentive to industry and virtue, and to discourage idleness and vice; but distinct penal regulations for one class and specific acts of encouragement to another form no part of the theory of the Poor Law Amendment Act. Strict order and due subordination are maintained in the Union workhouses; the family is accustomed to habits of decency and propriety; and religion and good morals are protected and promoted by the regular observance of religious services. The children are diligently instructed in religion and industry, so long as their parents are constrained to accept this form of relief, but they are not to be sent to the Union workhouse for such instruction, unless their parents are constrained to accept for themselves and their families a form of maintenance more irksome than that which is the lot of the independent labourer.

Distinct penal and protective regulations in the relief of the poor inadmissible.

The promotion of religion, good morals and industry, are objects of especial regard in the Union workhouses; but neither the poor, nor their children, are sent there for instruction; much less is it proposed to attempt to make a profit of the labour of the unemployed (which can only be accomplished by the unfettered enterprise of individuals), or to render the workhouse a place for the punishment of idleness and profligacy. The theory of the management of the Union workhouses simply consists in the regulation of relief to the poor therein, so as to render the lot of those who are maintained by independent industry preferable; and the incentives to industry and virtue, and the discouragement of idleness and vice, are consequences of the removal of the monies which have been expended for the support of the vicious and idle, at the expense of the honest and industrious.

Further complications.

51. If the hypothesis of the management of the Hundred Houses of industry had been in these respects more correct, other defects in the original constitution of these houses would nevertheless have constrained the directors and acting guardians again to resort to out-door relief.

52. Though, as I shall have to state, the size of these houses was utterly disproportioned to the wants of the Hundreds under a correct system of management, their projectors failed to anticipate how attractive they would prove. The facts which I shall furnish relative to the extent of indulgence granted in diet, in permitting the paupers to go abroad, in allowing stated holidays, the unrestrained visitation of friends, the reception of presents of food or money, especially the accommodation provided for the married, and the neglect of the classification of the rest of the inmates, will show that the food, clothing and lodging provided by these Incorporations for their paupers were preferable to the maintenance which the independent

Internal mismanagement of the houses industry.

Appendix (B.)

industrious labourer was enabled to obtain, by the utmost exertion, and the most frugal and provident use of his means.

Failure of manufacturing scheme.

53. The directors and acting guardians were reluctantly constrained to have recourse to out-door relief, because the profits obtained from the labour of the paupers in the House of industry were found to be exceedingly more than counterbalanced by the increase in the cost of their maintenance within the walls, as compared with the allowance usually given their families in a system of out-door relief. The average earnings of paupers within these houses were inconsiderable. The cost of the maintenance, clothing and establishment charges usually amounted to 13*l.* per head per annum, or more, while the cost of paupers out of doors averaged at most 5*l.* per head per annum under the scale allowance system, even for those who were relieved by quarterly orders. Calculations of this kind occasioned the dissolution of the Loes and Wilford Incorporation in 1824, by consent of the owners and occupiers of land within the Hundreds; a resolution having been previously adopted by a committee of investigation, "That it is the opinion of this committee that the financial department of this Incorporation has hitherto been so conducted as not to answer the purpose for which it was instituted." The loss under this system of management in this Incorporation was variously estimated, and I shall not attempt to determine the question; but it evidently must have been very great.

Dissolution of Loes and Wilford incorporation in 1824.

Rapid change in the administration of the Incorporations.

54. The proposed scheme of profit having thus signally failed, out-door relief was rapidly substituted for in-door maintenance; the House of industry became merely a house of reception for the aged and infirm, or for the able-bodied upon emergencies, and as exceptions to the general rule. The board generally degenerated into a mere court of appeal, or visiting committee for the house, the attendance of its members diminished, and the out-door relief was managed by the overseers in their respective parishes.

Original system abandoned.

55. The system of relief proposed at the origin of these incorporations had either wholly, or in the greater part, been abandoned when I visited Suffolk and Norfolk; the parochial administration had been again resorted to, with the incumbrance of an expensive Hundred house for the reception of such of the poor as the overseers might send thither.

Condition of some Hundred houses.

56. Some Incorporations, nevertheless, persevered in defiance of common sense, in filling the Hundred house with a crowd of turbulent and discontented paupers.

Attendance of Colneis and Carlford board.

57. In the Colneis and Carlford Incorporation, I found that during two years, at 42 of the weekly committee meetings no quorum had assembled. At six of the quarterly meetings out of eight, no quorum was present; and that though five special meetings were called in this period, no quorum attended any one of them. Notwithstanding this deficiency of numbers, the usual business was illegally transacted, accounts were audited and allowed, new expenses were incurred, officers elected, assessments made in direct opposition to the provisions of the Acts, and even elections of directors and acting guardians had taken place for many years at meetings at which there had been no quorum; so that the existing board of directors and acting guardians was an illegally constituted body, though, as I am bound to add, it contained some of the most intelligent and influential gentlemen in the county of Suffolk.

58. The assessments had usually been made by one indefatigable member of the board.

State of other Incorporations.

59. The position of many of the boards of directors and acting guardians, when I visited Suffolk, was not much dissimilar; whereas in some of the Norfolk Incorporations, though some of the workhouses were conducted on an erroneous system, the out-door relief was still subjected to the control of the board. In a few of the Houses of industry in the county of Norfolk, and in one Hundred in the county of Suffolk, the management was as good as the defect in the theory of their government would permit it to be.

Size of houses of industry.

60. The size of the workhouses of the Incorporations, if a correct system of management had been adopted, would have been found entirely disproportioned to the wants of the parishes for which they were erected. They were generally capable of containing from 600 to 800 inmates; and to enable the public and the Incorporation to derive as much benefit as possible from these structures, I found it, in some cases, necessary to recommend the addition of 20 parishes to the number included in the incorporation, which was usually about 30.

Extent of new unions.

61. The extent of the Unions thus formed was even then not limited by the capacity of the workhouse, (which, in many of them, will probably never be half filled), but, by the influence of local circumstances, such as the position of other Incorporations, which obstructed a further extension of the area of the new Union.

House of industry of the hundred of Stow.

62. I generally found the House of industry a substantially built and sometimes a handsome structure. The Stow Hundred-house had so palatial a character, that I was tempted to inquire, whether any peculiar concurrence of circumstances had occasioned the erection of an edifice, the appearance of which seemed to me so little in unison with the wants of the houseless and necessitous poor. On opening the local Act, I found that (as is customary in these enactments) provision was made, first, that directors should be chosen, who should be empowered to buy land, hire money and erect a House of industry, and that the acting guardians were not chosen until after the workhouse was completed. My inquiry soon elicited information, that the character of the structure had been usually attributed to the circumstance, that it was situated in the immediate vicinity of the country seats of some of the directors, who were naturally inclined to adorn rather than to disfigure the landscape. The future subject of chagrin had not been anticipated; the Hundred-house eclipsed some of the neighbouring mansions.

Interior.

63. The interior of this house may serve, in many respects, as an example of one class of these establishments. I found 94 persons within its walls. I wandered through lofty and spacious rooms and halls, well lighted, clean, well ventilated, but almost untenanted. In the

the dining-hall the tables were arranged for the guests; in the chapel the benches were prepared for the worshippers. On every side I beheld an apparatus intended to produce some great result. The yards were surrounded by extensive workshops; large rooms in the main building were filled with machinery; but the only busy thing in the establishment was the spider, which had spun its web on the spinning wheels. There were two large enclosures without the building, without appropriation; 18 acres of ground were attached to the house, on which five cows, eight pigs and a flock of fat poultry were kept. There was a monastic character of quiet and plenty about the establishment which would have cheered the heart of a pious monk in other days. Nevertheless, this house contained only a few aged and decrepid men and women in the corners of some of the spacious rooms, and some sturdy paupers who lounged on the sunny benches in the yard, watching a group of children at play.

Failure of system exemplified.

64. Why was the house so desolate, when the district was not freed from the mischief of the allowance system, and the need of an efficient test was sensibly felt by the better-informed inhabitants, and by none more than by the very intelligent and vigilant board of directors and acting guardians? The house was not used by the Board, because it was found to encourage pauperism rather than deter the poor from vicious and idle habits. The discipline was so lax, the diet so abundant, the frauds and waste of the paupers so great, that the cost of maintenance was excessive. The parishes refused to send their paupers thither, because they could not persuade them to leave its walls. That this was a natural result of the system adopted in such houses will become evident from the exhibition of some other details. Consent was obtained to the dissolution of this Incorporation with the most cordial concurrence of the great majority of the directors and acting guardians. The new board of guardians contains several of the most influential members of the old board, and under the presidency of John Edgar Rust, esq., the proceedings of the Stow Union have been distinguished equally by discretion and firmness, producing such beneficial results among all classes, as to attach the board of guardians by the strongest conviction to the principles and provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Heckingham house of industry.

65. The Heckingham house of industry afforded a striking example of the state in which I found the houses of other incorporations. Four hundred and fifty paupers were congregated in this house; the aged and infirm and able-bodied men, women and children having common yards and day-rooms. Some pretence of employment existed in a sacking manufactory, and in labour in the farm, of 10 acres, hired by the Incorporation; but the paupers were seldom kept at work. On entering the yards with the Rev. Stephen Clissold, of Wrentham, one day, the able-bodied paupers rushed out to stare at us in wild and disorderly groups, which suggested to me the propriety of informing Mr. Clissold, that they had openly threatened to assault Sir Edward Parry, my predecessor, upon his next visitation.

Disorder of inmates

66. The disorder and turbulence of the inmates were such as to triumph over the authority of the governor, and to render it so evident that the property of the Incorporation was endangered by the presence of this lawless crowd within the walls, that the magistrates applied for the interference of the Commissioners.

Excess of diet in those houses.

67. One of the chief features in the mismanagement of these houses was the excess of the dietary, and the extent of the indulgences granted the pauper.

Table as compared with the rations of the army and the average food of labourers.

68. The following table contains the dietaries of the various Houses of industry in the incorporated Hundreds of Suffolk and Norfolk. If it be borne in mind that the rations of the soldiers of the line are, by the warrant for the pay of the army, 168 ounces of solid food per week, we may anticipate the influence of offering security and ease with the indulgence of the diet established in the Hundred-houses, and every other kind of licence, on the decline of industry and frugality among the poor. This will appear more evident if the reader likewise remember, that the investigation instituted by the Commissioners of Inquiry led them to the conclusion, that the average diet of the independent agricultural labourers throughout the country does not exceed 122 ounces of solid food per week.

	Ounces of Solid Food, *i. e.* Bread, Cheese, Cooked Meat, Meat Dumpling, &c.	Pints of Fluid nutritious Diet, such as Milk Broth, Soup, Rice Milk, Meat Broth, &c.	Vegetables.	Pints of Beer.
Smallburg House, Tunstead and Happing Hundreds	165 ½	16	36	9
Workhouse, parish of Framlingham - - -	194	18	24	9
Gilbert's Union House, Sherringham - - -	194	13 ½	48	7 ½
Gilbert's Union House, Gimingham - - -	195	13 ½	48	6
Onehouse House, Stow Hundred - - - -	203	10 ½	24	14
Gilbert's Union House, Buxton - - - -	208	13 ½	32	14
Bulcamp House, Blything Hundred - - -	210	4 ½	16	7
Barham House, Bosmere and Claydon Hundreds -	211	13 ½	32	14
Cawston Parish House - - - - - -	215 ¼	10 ½	48	3 ½
Nacton House, Colneis and Carlford Hundreds -	217	24	32	14
Eye Parish House - - - - - - -	224	21	16	5
Semer House, Cosford Hundred - - - -	233 ½	14	- -	14
Tattingstone House, Samford Hundred - -	247	13 ½	Small quantity, included with solid food.	12
Heckingham House, Loddon and Clavering Hundreds	250	14	24	14
Gilbert's Union House, Oulton - - - -	265 ½	12 ½	32	9
Aylsham Parish House - - - - -	272 ½	11	- -	10 ½

Dietary of Tattingstone house of industry.

69. The account of the dietary of the Tattingstone House of industry was prepared with such care by its faithful governor, that I think it deserves to be distinguished by being entered separately from the rest, as an example of the nature and quantity of diet usually afforded in these houses, among which the Tattingstone House was probably the best regulated.

Samford Hundred:—Weight of Diet delivered to Men weekly.

	OUNCES.				TOTAL of Ounces.	PINTS.			TOTAL of Pints.
	Bread.	Suet Pudding.	Cheese.	Meat, Dumpling & Vegetables.		Gruel.	Broth.	Beer.	
Sunday - -	19	20	2	–	41	–	–	3	3
Monday - -	28 ½	–	2	–	30 ½	1 ½	–	2	3 ½
Tuesday -	19	–	–	25	44	1 ½	1 ½	1	4
Wednesday -	28 ½	–	2	–	30 ½	–	1 ½	2	3 ½
Thursday -	19	–	–	25	44	1 ½	1 ½	1	4
Friday - -	25 ½	–	1	–	26 ½	–	3	1	4
Saturday -	28 ½	–	2	–	30 ½	1 ½	–	2	3 ½
	168	20	9	50	247	6	7 ½	12	25 ½

"The greater part of working men one pint of ale extra every day at 12 o'clock, and the women assistants in the house one pint of ale instead of table beer every evening. All persons not in health may have, if they choose, meat dumpling and vegetable Sundays and Fridays, provided they do not take the full diet of the house; and all widows and married women, one pint of ale with their supper on the Saturday evening. Charity beer to the female sick rooms twice a week, and charity beer to the men's sick and aged rooms every night."

Dietaries of Smallburg and Aylsham and Heckingham compared.

70. It is evident, that if the diet of the Smallburg workhouse was sufficient, the dietaries of Aylsham and Heckingham, both distant only a few miles from Smallburg, were monstrous; and I believe the Smallburg House of industry was one of the most healthy establishments in the county of Norfolk.

Food stolen from the Stow house of industry.

71. Mr. Webb, of Combs, one of the directors of the Incorporated Hundred of Stow, informed me that tons of food had been sold out of the Stow House of industry. Another director assured me that it was well known that the paupers used commonly to go to Stow market with their linen to be washed, and that the baskets covered with linen were filled with food stolen from the house. Information having been given of methods adopted to take away the food, the magistrates ordered two men to be taken into custody who frequented the house on Sunday, and they found in their possession considerable quantities of food which they had bought from the paupers. This trade had been carried on for a considerable period.

Also from Semer house.

72. Mr. Plum, the present governor of Cosford Union workhouse, informs me that it was the practice of the baker to leave the door of the bread-room unlocked to facilitate those depredations. Mr. Newman, the vice-chairman of the Cosford Union, reports that several families in his parish were, to his certain knowledge, formerly altogether supported by food stolen from the Hundred house. It is notorious that such practices prevailed in other Hundred houses, and I was assured that the diet of the paupers of Heckingham house was exchanged in neighbouring beer-shops for fermented liquors. The excess of the dietary which facilitated those practices, did not prevent butchers' meat, pies, sweetmeats and spirituous liquors being introduced to the paupers within the walls; and it was not unfrequent, in some of the houses, for paupers to feast their friends within the walls, especially on Sundays and at christenings.

Necessity for vigilant porter exemplified.

73. What need there is of a vigilant performance of the duties of porter, may be rendered apparent by the following circumstance. Very recently the master of Shipmeadow workhouse, in the Wangford Union, permitted a pauper (Elizabeth Stannard) who had been 16 years an inmate, to go out for a day. On her return she presented herself to the porter drunk; refused to be searched, and was therefore taken into custody, when the following articles were found upon her person: three quarters of a pint of rum, two pounds of pork, half a pound of sausages, some bread, six eggs, some apples, one piece of 'stone blue,' three parcels of sweetmeats, half a pound of cheese, two caps, two large pockets, two bunches of keys, 1*l.* 9*s.* in silver, 9¾*d.* in copper, and in her box 5*l.* 10*s.* in gold, and many articles of clothing.

Holidays and other indulgences.

74. The number of holidays in each year was considerable, and on these days, as I shall have further to remark, the paupers had liberty to go whither they pleased. The extent of indulgences was in other respects pernicious; rewards were given to the paupers for the work performed in the domestic offices of the houses. Upwards of 100*l.* per annum were often thus dispensed. Mr. Plum reported to me concerning the Stow Hundred house, that the nurses in that house, though paupers, were better off in every respect than the nurses in the London hospitals.

Weekly cost.

75. The weekly cost of maintaining a pauper in these houses amounted to a most serious and oppressive burthen. The Nacton workhouse may afford an example of the lavish expense of these houses.* In the year ending Lady-day 1818, the average weekly expense of each pauper, including the establishment, was 8*s.* 1*d.*; in 1819, 6*s.* 10¾*d.*; in 1820, 6*s.* 5½*d.*; in 1821, 8*s.* 1¾*d.*; in 1822, 6*s.* 6¾*d.*; in 1823, 5*s.* 11*d.*; in 1824, 7*s.* 4¾*d.* When I visited Suffolk I found that the weekly cost for the maintenance and clothing, and establishment charges of a pauper in some of these houses, still amounted to a sum varying from 5*s.* to 5*s.* 6*d.* In the Cosford Union, the weekly cost of maintenance is now 3*s.* 5*d.*, including the establishment and extraordinary expenses incurred at the commencement of the new operations, and it is expected it will be reduced to little more than 3*s.*

* Letters on the kind and economic management of the poor, chiefly as regarding incorporated poor-houses, &c., 1825.

Long residence of paupers in these houses.

76. I have generally found paupers in these houses who have lived there from 20 to 30 years and upwards. On proceeding to the classification of the inmates, it has been usual for boards of guardians to consider their claims to be supported for a certain period on out-allowance, in order to afford them an opportunity of seeking for work. This appeared in some cases to be a hopeless experiment, from the confirmed habits of pauperism which had been engendered by a long continued residence in the house, during which many had married and had families, and some were even encumbered with grandchildren. The only means of rendering such persons assistance appeared to be to endeavour to correct their idle and vicious habits by the reformed discipline of the house; by accustoming them to labour, to docility, and a grateful and respectful demeanor.

Exemplified in Bulcamp house of industry

77. The following account of the period during which some paupers resided in Bulcamp house of industry, was furnished at my request, by Mr. Wilson, the governor, returned in weeks, as is usual in such reports:

"Blything Hundred.—Mary White was admitted into the poorhouse at Bulcamp, 28th September 1795, a widow, (and still is an inmate of the house); she had three children with her, Elizabeth, Susan and James, belonging to Darsham; James died 13th April 1807; Elizabeth married, and she and her family belonged to Blythburgh; Susan, after her marriage (with her family) belonged to Theberton, who still remain in the house. The time the widow, her children, and her children's children have been inmates of this house, amounts to 11,102 weeks, 5 days, up to June 1836. Elizabeth and her family are discharged since the classification."

"Robert Nunn, wife and five children, belonging to the parish of Bramfield, were admitted into Bulcamp workhouse 22d January 1818, and had several more children born in the house, afterwards bound out apprentices, and some of them returned to the house again, making the time altogether they were inmates in the house, 4,956 weeks 4 days; discharged 18th January 1836, very soon after the classification."

Manufactures in these houses.

78. One element of the cost of these houses frequently, was the complicated error of their manufacturing establishment. The trades usually were sack, linen or cloth factories, or the people were employed in making nets. When these houses were crowded with inmates, each might be regarded as a large sacking and net manufactory; and in counties where 20 such establishments existed, the extent of this interference amounted to an unwarrantable encroachment on the profits of the fair trader and the wages of the industrious labourer.

In Yarmouth the overseers of the poor represented to me that the manufacture of nets in the Hundred houses had interfered with the employment of the poor in that town, so as to occasion a sensible increase in the pauperism of the net makers.

I have recently received a memorial from the sack manufacturers of Norwich, representing that the governors of the Hundred houses have undersold them in the market. "Within the last 10 days," they state, "the governor of Gimingham house, Norfolk, has been offering his sacks at 2*d.* per sack less than we can sell them for; and, last not least, they weigh more than half a pound more than ours. The cost-price of a five-bushel sack used by millers is 2*s.* 1*d.* and 2*s.* 1½*d.* per sack, not reckoning anything for factory expenses or use of utensils, that is the cost-price per sack, which weighs five lbs., which we are now selling at 2*s.* 3*d.* per sack; but sacks manufactured at those houses generally weighing half a pound more, namely, 5½ lbs., sold at 2*d.* per sack less; and surely we ought not to be subject to such an unfair competition, and we are not fearful to assert, that the only person who reaps the advantage is the governor, whose discount on bills is the inducement for them to continue the system."

Extent of profits allowed to governors.

79. The discount supposed to be obtained on bills, and the allowance of one penny per sack to the governor, would certainly be, as they were intended to be, a stimulus to the governors to push the manufactory to the utmost, in order that their profit might be as great as possible. Thus, in some of the Houses of industry I have found that the governor's per centage produced 60*l.* per annum. And in former periods, when those manufactories formed the prominent feature of the scheme of profit which the Incorporations proposed to derive from the labour of the unemployed poor, the governor's per centage amounted to a larger annual sum.

Effects.

80. The directors and acting guardians probably foresaw that as the governor's profits were made to depend on the extent of the manufactory, and were therefore greater or less as there were more or fewer inmates in the House of industry, a temptation was offered the governor to foster the manufactory, by inducing as many paupers as possible to remain within the walls. When the extent of the indulgences allowed, and the power of the governor to increase them at his discretion, are taken into account, it cannot be a lawful subject of wonder, that these houses were crowded in the heyday of the manufacturing experiment. The independent labourer, moreover, was further induced to desert his position, and become a manufacturing pauper, by receiving one fourth, or one sixth, or one eighth, of the amount of his earnings in the house, according to his age, old men having the most.

Pernicious nature of system of rewards to paupers.

81. It was not enough that the food, clothing and lodging provided by the Incorporation were superior to those of the independent labourer, thatthe inmate of the house was freed from all care and anxiety, his wants carefully ministered to in health, his family sedulously attended when sick; he was further bribed to work by wages.

Further errors in allowing parishes a return for the labour of the paupers.

82. In order that all might appear to derive some advantage from this system, the parishes who sent paupers into the workhouse were permitted to have the monies earned by their labour. The maintenance of the paupers sent into the house to be "set to work," was charged to their respective parishes. Their wages were estimated at the usual cost of labour in the particular employment, and one fourth, one sixth, or one eighth of these wages were paid to the paupers. The rewards thus paid were deducted from the value of their work, as exhibited in the net returns of the sale of the goods produced by their labour, and the rest of these proceeds were returned to the parishes, who in the name of profit and reward sustained abundant loss. This result might have been anticipated, since the cost of maintaining a man and wife and four children in the house of industry averaged 30*s.* per week, (calculated according to the average cost of their maintenance in such establishments), and the wages of labour out of doors did not exceed 9*s.* per week, that manufactory which paid 30*s.* per week for its labour could not succeed.

The following Table exhibits the extent of the loss thus sustained in the Mitford and Launditch Incorporation during the five years preceding the dissolution of those Incorporated hundreds, which Incorporation I select, because great attention was paid to its management by a very intelligent Board.

Names of the Parishes whose Paupers were employed in the Manufactory.	Number of Paupers so employed in each Parish.	Total Number of their Families, including Parents and Children.	Total Cost of the Maintenance of these Families.	Amount of Money paid Paupers for their Labour.	Amount of Proceeds of Labour paid back to Parishes, being the Profit when the Rewards of the Paupers were deducted.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
From Midsummer 1831 to Midsummer 1832:					
Hardingham	2	5	36 11 5	2 – 9	8 5 –
Mattishall	1	5	33 13 6	2 7 8	8 7 6
Westfield	1	1	7 15 9	– 2 4	1 – 6
Yaxham	4	4	28 6 2	2 8 1	6 15 6
Bilney	1	1	5 4 –	– 2 –	– 15 –
Hoe	6	7	54 14 7	6 18 1	20 12 9
Colkirk	1	1	2 6 7	– 3 –	– 10 –
Dunham, Great	1	1	2 11 1	– 4 4	– 15 –
Feansham, Great	1	2	5 15 2	– 7 –	1 14 –
Scarning	3	7	45 6 3	1 15 8	8 6 6
Swanton	7	18	140 16 2	9 5 5	38 14 3
Wendling	2	4	17 – 3	2 7 4	7 3 2
			380 – 11		102 19 2
From Midsummer 1832 to Midsummer 1833:					
Hardingham	4	9	60 10 4	3 8 5	7 16 9
Cranworth	2	2	5 2 –	– 2 –	– 9 6
Mattishall	1	5	34 6 –	3 8 7	10 7 –
Regmerstone	1	1	7 17 1	– 2 –	– 14 6
Shipdham	3	3	19 5 6	– 15 –	3 7 8
Westfield	1	1	8 3 7	– 2 6	1 – 6
Yaxham	6	7	36 6 4	2 9 3	10 14 5
Hoe	6	8	59 8 8	9 5 5	28 2 2
Scarning	1	6	35 5 6	1 1 5½	4 11 6
Swanton	8	16	123 13 10	9 16 –	38 – 10
Wendling	2	5	36 5 10	6 12 5	18 19 –
Colkirk	1	1	7 12 6	– 17 10	2 9 6
			433 17 2		126 13 4
From Midsummer 1833 to Midsummer 1834:					
Hardingham	3	5	39 13 –	2 14 –	6 6 11
Mattishall	2	7	40 12 10	4 8 1	14 16 8
Regmerstone	1	1	7 11 8	– 2 8	1 1 6
Shipdham	4	7	51 14 1	5 17 4	17 13 11
Westfield	1	1	7 11 8	– 6 –	1 13 9
Yaxham	5	10	67 12 11	6 14 7	23 16 4
Colkirk	1	1	3 12 6	– 15 –	1 15 6
Hoe	9	10	72 2 3	10 1 11	34 – 10

Names of the Parishes whose Paupers were employed in the Manufactory.	Number of Paupers so employed in each Parish.	Total Number of their Families, including Parents and Children.	Total Cost of the Maintenance of these Families.	Amount of Money paid Paupers for their Labour.	Amount of Proceeds of Labour paid back to Parishes, being the Profits when the Rewards of the Paupers were deducted.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Scarning	6	17	60 16 –	3 5 8	13 18 3
Swanton	8	16	122 9 8	11 14 8	43 6 8
Wendling	3	7	54 4 8	9 7 –	29 – 4
Litcham	2	6	26 17 11	2 8 –	9 9 8
Wellingham	2	5	32 9 –	– 4 –	1 13 –
			587 8 2		198 3 4
From Midsummer 1834 to Midsummer 1835:					
Hardingham	2	4	27 7 6	2 19 9	7 13 –
Mattishall	2	12	67 9 8	8 3 7	30 12 6
Regmerstone	1	1	5 19 10	– 3 4	1 – 4
Westfield	1	1	6 9 6	1 – 3	3 17 –
Shipdham	3	9	43 5 7	7 – 4	26 17 –
Yaxham	3	9	34 9 4	6 13 4	24 19 7
Fransham, Great	3	5	21 15 1	– 10 6	2 3 9
Hoe	4	7	43 5 3	7 2 2	26 9 6
Kempstone	2	2	12 2 4	– 5 2	1 12 –
Litcham	2	7	31 18 –	4 14 –	17 17 2
Scarning	6	20	92 13 10	7 19 6	31 14 6
Swanton	8	12	80 14 6	12 – 7	45 15 4
Bilney	1	1	2 19 4	– 8 9	1 13 –
Thuxton	1	5	7 2 2	– 14 11	2 19 –
Wellingham	3	5	28 16 9	– 6 –	2 2 –
Wendling	6	16	67 2 3	11 6 1	43 2 9
			573 10 11		270 8 5
From Midsummer 1835 to Midsummer 1836:					
Cranworth	1	1	3 8 3	– 14 10	2 17 8
Hardingham	1	1	4 7 8	– 2 –	– 14 4
Mattishall	2	12	35 8 2	2 16 8	12 7 –
Regmerstone	1	1	2 1 10	– 1 –	– 7 5
Shipdham	3	10	49 10 2	4 9 –	21 10 8
Thuxton	3	6	31 5 6	2 7 6	10 14 6
Yaxham	3	5	16 11 8	1 1 8	6 14 1
Tuddenham, N.	2	5	26 15 2	2 17 1	13 18 –
Westfield	1	1	– 12 6	– 2 11	– 11 8
Bilney, East	1	1	6 4 4	– 9 2	2 1 9
Pepenhall	1	2	2 8 –	– 12 9	2 7 4
Hoe	3	5	29 15 4	4 – 7	17 – 3
Kempstone	2	3	12 4 –	– 5 4	1 10 2
Litcham	1	4	15 19 7	2 3 2	9 17 2
Scarning	9	23	107 13 5	7 2 –	33 2 6
Swanton	2	1	– 19 –	– 3 –	– 10 4
Wellingham	2	4	19 17 4	– 6 4	1 16 3
			365 1 11		138 1 1

The loss to the parishes who had families employed in the manufactory in 1831–2 was 277*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*; in 1832–3 it amounted to 307*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*; in 1833–4 it was 389*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*; in 1834–5 it was 303*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, and in 1835–6, 227*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* The total loss in these five years amounted to 1,503*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*

Extract from an able Report of a Committee of the Mitford and Launditch Incorporation.

83. The following remarks occurring in the very able "Report of the Special Committee appointed to investigate the accounts, and the method of the management of the poor, pursued in the Hundreds of Mitford and Launditch, in the county of Norfolk," in 1825, may serve to show how hopeless the directors and acting guardians considered the scheme of deriving a profit from the labour of the unemployed poor in this House of industry. Having remarked upon the difficulty of providing employment for the numerous inmates of the house, and discussed the adequacy of each kind of employment to make this provision of labour, the committee adopt the conclusion natural to this system of management, viz.; that a manufactory of some description was necessary to furnish employment for the poor, and they then proceed to inquire what description of manufactory is most desirable.

Appendix (B.)

No. 1. Report of *J. Phillips Kay*, Esq. M.D.

"It appears," they say, "that in 1814, a manufactory was established of woollen and linen goods, both for the use of the house and for sale. They consisted of Duffield cloth, blankets, flushing, horse-collar cloth, Duffield carpeting, &c. Sheeting, shirting, towelling, sail cloth, &c., and of sacks manufactured of the refuse hemp. For this purpose, 300 *l.* was advanced by the treasurer, and a separate manufactory account was kept with him. The business was conducted by the late governor, who appeared thoroughly conversant with the subject, under the direction of a separate committee, and without reference to the monthly committee. The work was performed by the paupers (men and boys) belonging to the house; a weaver of Duffield and linen being, however, occasionally engaged (on an average for less than six months in the year) and paid by the piece. The paupers were paid at the discretion of the governor; and the pay-book can nowhere be found, and consequently no judgment can be formed of the rate of wages allowed. This manufactory entirely failed, as appears from the following statement of its Dr. and Cr. account.*

Dr.	£.	s.	d.	Cr.	£.	s.	d.
Manufactory:				Estimated value of looms and other utensils - - -	20	–	–
Balance due to treasurer -	68	4	3	Stock of goods in hand (with 3*l.* 8*s.* 5½*d.*) due from parishes - - - -	18	13	2½
Due to corporation for sums advanced for wages of poor due to several parishes -	174	4	11½	Debts - - - -	20	7	8
Still due to different parishes	31	18	10	£.	59	–	10
				Loss to manufactory - -	215	7	2
£.	274	8	–½	£.	274	8	–

"The manufactory had continued 10 years, averaging a loss of 21*l.* 12*s.* a year. In 1825 the principal branches of it, linen and woollen, were discontinued, and the only manufactory now going on, besides the making of all the stockings used in the house, is one of sacks. There are two looms with sleys and shuttles, but only one has been kept at work, and that with no regularity, partly from the want of inmates accustomed to this description of weaving, and partly from the uncertainty of its answering the views of the corporation. The governor seems competent to the superintendence of the manufactory, and able to give sufficient instruction to paupers who understand anything of weaving, to enable them to weave stockings. The committee are not aware of any other description of manufacture which can be advantageously adopted, except that of shoes for the use of the poor in the house. It seems desirable to give the governor an interest in the success of the manufactory by a per centage on the profits. On the whole therefore they recommend,

"1. That the manufactory of woollen, linen, &c. be entirely abandoned, and that of sacks continued.

"2. That stockings continue to be made by the poor for the use of the house.

"3. That the governor be allowed 1*d.* per sack, on all sacks manufactured, and sold at such price as the monthly committee shall direct."

If any manufacture be introduced, it should be a domestic manufacture.

84. With the decision of the committee in favour of the manufacture of an article for sale without the walls, in preference to that of one for use within the walls, I beg respectfully to differ. If manufactures are in any respect desirable, certainly that form of manufacture ought to be encouraged which least resembles the establishment of a trade, and which most resembles domestic labour. I am, moreover, certain, that under a correct system of management, the question will be simplified and reduced within much narrower limits, by the almost total absence of all able-bodied inmates, or persons able to assist in carrying on a manufacture, from the walls of the Union workhouses. I venture also to question, whether (leaving altogether out of account the cost of the labour of the paupers), the goods consumed within a workhouse can be produced for the money by which they can be purchased out of doors. The quantity of labour required to keep the inmates of the Union workhouses employed will be very slight. The labour should be simple and laborious. It should have no tendency to interfere with the capitalist and the independent labourer. It should be such as to afford no facilities for fraud, by the embezzlement of the materials, or for loss by mismanagement.

The inmates of the new workhouses will be so few in number that the provision of employment will cease to be difficult.

85. Some of the most zealous members of the boards of these incorporations have been perplexed to discover how a workhouse could possibly be well managed without a trade or mystery to set the poor to work. I have had some difficulty in endeavouring to establish in their minds the conviction that the number of the inmates of the Union workhouse will be so small as to render the provision of employment by simpler modes easy and effectual. Nevertheless, I have found the hand corn-mills, which have been supplied to the

* Which account does not include the cost of the maintenance of the paupers, that is, the real price of their labour.

the Union workhouses, standing still during a great part of the year for the want of a sufficient number of men to turn the winch. The calculations of the directors and acting guardians were of course grounded on the consequences of other methods of management, in congregating masses of paupers in the houses of industry. The number of able-bodied males and females who have accepted relief within the walls of the Union workhouses (excepting for very limited periods) has been so small, that sufficient employment has usually been found for the women, in keeping the house clean, making the beds, assisting in the domestic offices, nursing the sick, attending upon the aged and infirm, and making and mending the clothes, &c., of the establishment. The number of able-bodied men has usually been so small, that, as is explained above, the hand corn-mill has usually been found to provide more than sufficient employment for them. The children of able-bodied parents leave the house with their natural protectors, and are not found in any considerable number in the Union workhouses.

Towards those children which have lost their natural guardians, or whose guardianship is at end, in consequence of personal or legal disabilities, the Union has to fill the place of guardian; and besides instructing them in "reading, writing and the principles of the Christian religion," must impart such other instruction to them as may be "calculated to train them to habits of usefulness, industry and virtue." To this end, education in some trade or art is desirable, and the boards of guardians should, to the extent to which this may be necessary, provide for the employment of the children.

Absence of classification in the old houses of industry.

86. One of the most prominent defects of these establishments consisted in the absence of any efficient classification of the inmates. Young men and women, children of both sexes, the aged and infirm, and able-bodied married men and women, were often promiscuously mingled in the yards and day-rooms, and the means of classification at night were sometimes inefficient.

Apartments of married paupers.

87. The provision for the accommodation of the able-bodied married paupers at night was not calculated to improve the moral condition of the inmates. A long room was usually divided into small "huts," each capable of containing one bed. These huts were narrow enclosures from the area of the room, created by thin boarded partitions about six feet high, between the top of which and the ceiling, the ventilation of the apartment was not obstructed by any other division. In such apartments married people have lived 30 or even 40 years; their children, born to them in the house, have married, and accepted the same provision; and their grandchildren have been bred within the walls.

Provision made for families by Mitford an Launditch incorporation.

88. The directors and guardians of the Mitford and Launditch Incorporation appear to have shrunk from this arrangement, and boldly encountered the expense of erecting an immense building, divided into houses on the first and second floors for the accommodation of the married inmates. The whole structure is substantially built of brick, the rooms of the paupers' houses are 13 feet high, and arcades, not unlike those of the streets of Bologna, are erected along the face of the building. Many of the cottages of the independent labourers in the neighbourhood are built of mud or lath and plaster. Wishing to avoid the error of herding the married people in styes, this Incorporation fell into the opposite extreme of providing better dwellings for the paupers than were possessed by the majority of the independent labourers of the district.

Demoralization of inmates of houses of industry.

89. Wherever this want of classification prevailed, the demoralization of the inmates was inevitable. Statements have repeatedly been made to me, showing the great licentiousness which prevailed in these houses at an earlier period of the operations of the Incorporations, when the numbers congregated in them were greater. Though their inmates were less numerous when I visited Suffolk and Norfolk, the corruption of manners prevalent in these establishments was notorious, and is too evident a result of the arrangements to require illustration.

Holidays.

90. In most of these houses the paupers were allowed holidays, when all the inmates departed whither they pleased. This indulgence was doubtless permitted to enable the paupers to visit their friends and relatives; but the consequences were generally fatal to the discipline of the establishment, and the morals of both sexes.

Desecration of Sunday in the Loddon and Clavering incorporation.

91. In the Heckingham House of industry, this day of sports recurred every week, the inmates being freed from all restraints on Sunday. The paupers had made abundant provision for the enjoyment of this license; it was found profitable to erect two beer-shops in the immediate neighbourhood, which were usually crowded with paupers on this day. The women had boxes in the neighbouring cottages containing dresses, which, as soon as they were released, they exchanged for the workhouse garb, and thus attired in a more attractive style, flaunted about the neighbourhood in company with the young men; and Sir Edmund Bacon, whose estate at Raveningham is close to the workhouse, complained to me that his woods were infested, as though they were the groves, and the workhouse the temple of Isis.

Education of children, &c.

92. The education provided for the children sent to these houses was valueless, and the children born and bred there were idle and profligate. The means of promoting good morals were so totally wanting in most of these establishments, the reward of idleness was so abundant, the incentives to vice so rife, that an observer might have been excused the inquiry, whether on account of the lack of employment for the governors of county gaols, it had been considered desirable to create seminaries for the preparation of victims of the penal code.

Appendix (B.)

No. 1.
Report of
J. Phillips Kay, Esq.
M.D.

93. Nevertheless, the local Acts of these Incorporations propose, as the objects to be attained by their institution, "the education of poor children in religion and industry," "the better employment of the able and industrious," "the correction and punishment of the profligate and idle, that they may be made to contribute to the support and relief of each other, and not be that heavy and grievous burthen to the community they have hitherto been."

Effects of the introduction of the new system of management. Dispersion of the inmates.

94. The mismanagement of the hundred Houses of industry, illustrates the necessity of placing such establishments under the control of a central authority. The reformation of the discipline of these houses, introduced under the authority of the Poor Law Commissioners, has occasioned the dispersion of their able-bodied inmates (with one or two exceptions), who, although habituated to consider the workhouse their home, from having inhabited it during the greater part of their lives, have now found an independent subsistence elsewhere. The governors of the Barham, Semer and Bulcamp workhouses, have furnished me with lists of persons who had thus become perpetual inmates of these houses, had married and brought up a family within the walls, who are now supporting themselves by their independent industry; the discipline of the new workhouses being incompatible with the indulgence of habits of idleness and vice. The following is Mr. Sutton's list of some of the paupers who were inmates of Barham workhouse:

"John Woolnough, aged 35, a good blacksmith, but a drunken bad character, nearly always in the house with his family, or receiving 7*s.* or 5*s.* per week from his parish, when out of it. Discharged himself soon after the classification and introduction of the new system, taking with him his wife and three children; now supports his family without the parish aid."

"Wentworth Studd, a carpenter and joiner, and excellent workman, but a drunken character; married from the house, and been 12 years an inmate; left immediately after the classification; now supports himself and wife, as he is well capable of doing, without the assistance of the parish."

"John Jordan, aged 42, able-bodied, but a sad drunkard, with a wife and five children; been 10 years in the house; but since the classification and the introduction of the new system, managed to leave it, and supports his family without the parish assistance."

"John Game and wife, he has been in the house about 15 years, and his wife about 30 years; married in the house about 9 or 10 years ago; left immediately after the separation and introduction of the new system; now support themselves without parish assistance."

"William Banyard, aged 21, brought up in the house; married one of the paupers about three years ago; has now one child; never away from the house more than six months. Immediately after the introduction of the new system, left the house without having work to go to, but soon managed to obtain employ; and now supports himself and family without the assistance of the parish."

"John List, wife and one child, been in the house about 10 years; since the classification, &c. managed to leave it, and now support themselves."

"I am satisfied that none of the above would have left the house, or if they had, it would have been but for a very short time, had it not been for the classification and introduction of the system under the new Poor Laws. I now find the aged and infirm people much more satisfied than under the old system, as they are now free from the annoyance of the able-bodied, and in many instances bad characters, which, before, they were always subject to, from having to inhabit the same apartment."

7 June 1836. *John Sutton.*

Further illustration.

95. In further illustration of this important subject, it may be desirable to anticipate somewhat the subject of the effects of the interference of the Poor Law Commissioners, discussed in the latter part of this report, by exhibiting the condition of one House of industry previously to that interference and its present state.

State of Semer house of industry.

96. Previously to the interference of the Commissioners, the state of the Incorporation of Cosford hundred, and of the workhouse at Semer, was such as to occasion the transmission, to the Commissioners, of some appeals for assistance from the Rev. Frederick Calvert, who has presided over the operations of the new board of guardians. In one of these letters Mr. Calvert remarks:

Letters from the Rev. Fred. Calvert, of Whatfield.

"Mr. Stewart's report of the state of pauperism in Suffolk, will inform you, that at the time of his visitation, Cosford House of industry presented a melancholy instance of mismanagement. Since he was with us, we have had a new governor, under whom the pecuniary state of the management has been better administered; but in every other respect I fear we have made no improvement, but much the reverse. The new governor was a timid person, who, after two years' management of the house, has been fairly frightened out of it, by the difficulties of his undertaking, and the increasing insubordination of the paupers. He has just given up his situation, and our new governor, who has been about 10 days in the house, will find it an arduous task to bring the system into anything like order. The great evil is, that that there has been no employment, and lately there has been no pretence of employment within the walls; and it has come about by the yielding of the late governor to successive claims as to privileges and rights, that the paupers have become very unmanageable. There are now more than 200 of all ages within the house, and the object of nearly all of them seems to be to intimidate the new governor."

"The

"The practice with the most disorderly among them is, to do all the mischief they can, by breaking the windows, &c. Yesterday they threw stones through a partition wall at the governor, and when he sent for one of the offenders he refused to attend to the summons; and when the governor, with two others (who act as constables), went to fetch him out of the yard, they were all attacked, thrown down, and the constables' staves taken from them. Another magistrate and myself, sent eight of the worst of them to gaol last night."

97. In another letter Mr. Calvert says,

"Since my last hasty note to you, which I wrote from the workhouse, I have sent three men from the house to prison for 21 days, for general insubordination and bad conduct, and to-day I have committed two more for the like period for refusing to do the work assigned them by the governor; and it is not at all improbable that I may be called upon to send 20 more in the course of the next ten days, unless in the mean time matters come to an open rupture."

"The case to-day originated as follows: Among the varieties of mischief practised by the inmates, one is to break to pieces all the chamber-pots which they can lay hold of; I am told they have lately demolished about forty of them. The governor refused to supply them with more, and sent them a pail instead, which they pitched out of the window, and made use of the corners of the room in preference."

"He afterwards furnished new ones (if I am rightly informed) with the understanding, that if any were wantonly broken, they would be absolutely denied them in future. One of these was broken by being thrown at the door, as he was leaving their bed-room; but at this time, the practice with the paupers in that (the young men's) ward, is to filthify the floor of their bed-room to the utmost."

"This morning, at my suggestion, the governor ordered two of the men to clean the room, (two others having performed the task yesterday) and I committed them. All the rest have refused to-day; but I have recommended the governor to assign the task every morning, to any two whom he may select, and I have determined to give them 21 days' hard labour if they refuse, and to send them all to gaol by instalments. The three men who were committed last Tuesday, broke two pair of hand-cuffs, and a pair of leg-irons before they left the house, together with the door of the room in which they were in custody."

"The house of industry is 18 miles from Bury St. Edmund's; along the whole road, as well as on their quitting the house, the offenders create every kind of disturbance in their power."

98. Such was the discipline of the Semer workhouse at this period: the state of the Incorporation was equally deplorable. The management was parochial, the House of industry being merely a house of reception, to which the overseers sent poor when they pleased; the allowance system flourished throughout the Hundred in its most aggravated forms.

Success of the new measures.

99. The new measures have been introduced with equal firmness and prudence. The discipline of the house has been completely reformed. What this task was may be conceived from the preceding extracts from Mr. Calvert's letters, and the following evidence of Mr. Plum, to whose energy as clerk and superior governor the Union is much indebted.

Evidence of Mr. Plum, the clerk of the Union, and superior governor of the workhouse.

100. "When I arrived at the workhouse at Semer, I found considerable breaches made in the walls of the main building, brick floors torn up, fireplaces pulled out, chimney-breasts demolished, door-frames torn away and burned, and window-frames removed and destroyed. The glass was broken in every direction; there was scarcely a whole window in the house. The windows of the dining-hall were so much broken by the practice of throwing stones at the governor as he was passing through the hall, that the meals of the inmates could not be served excepting by day-light, as no candle could be kept lighted in the room. The repairs of the breaches and damages in the house and out-buildings cannot have cost much less than 300*l.*"

"The insubordination of the inmates was so extreme, that if the governor attempted to correct any disorder, the whole of the paupers rose in a body to resist his authority, and more than once violently assaulted him, tearing his clothes, and subjecting him to gross personal indignities.

"The chief object to which it appeared desirable that I should direct my attention, in the first instance, was to provide constant employment for the able-bodied inmates. The situation of the house afforded abundant facilities for effecting this object, and within three days of my arrival they were set to work in digging and barrowing chalk and gravel, to level the ground surrounding the workhouse, and afterwards to make new roads to the house, and other improvements. In the first fortnight 20 of the inmates left the house. I was enabled to make the enforcement of this system of labour the first step towards the introduction of the Commissioners' rules and regulations within the workhouse, and acting on your recommendation, to proceed gradually, but firmly, in the establishment of correct discipline. By close and persevering application to this object, I was enabled to subdue the refractory spirit which prevailed, and, step by step, to obtain obedience to each regulation, to classify the inmates, and to create a deference to the authority of the master, which now frees us from all embarrassments. Very few of those who had, at the period of the formation of the Union, apparently taken up their permanent abode in the house, have remained inmates until this period. The aged and infirm are much pleased with their treatment under the new management; the classification is a source of great comfort to the old; and they often say, how easy and comfortable they are compared with their former situation. I am convinced

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it would have been a matter of extreme difficulty, if not impossible, to bring the discipline of this workhouse to its present state, unassisted by classification. Some of our indulgences, previously to the alteration of the discipline, were curious; the women, on washing days, were allowed five pints of strong beer each, besides the usual allowance; on the christening of any child, born in the house, the paupers were allowed to entertain a party of friends, and feast them within the walls at the expense of the Incorporation.

"As witness my hand this 7th day of June 1836,

"*T. Plum.*"

The efficacy of the workhouse system exhibited.

101. The efficiency of the management introduced into these Hundred houses may be further proved by the effects flowing from their application as tests of pauperism, since their discipline was improved by the authority of the Poor Law Commissioners. With this view I subjoin an account of the number of paupers who were in these Hundred houses at the period when the rules and regulations for workhouse management were enforced; the number maintained there, in the present month (June 1836), the number of orders of admission which have been given to men, women and children, the number who have accepted the provision thus offered, and the period which they have respectively remained, in classes of such as continued inmates one or two weeks, or one, two or three months, together with the number now remaining within the walls, who had accepted the orders of admission.

	In House at the Formation of Union.			Present Number, June 1836.			Ordered for Admission from 29th September 1835 to 7th June 1836.			Orders Accepted.			Staid less than One Week.			More than One, and less than Two.		
	M.	W.	C.	M.	W.	C.	M.	W.	C.	M.	W.	C.	M.	W.	C.	M.	W.	C.
Cosford Union	59	44	49	46	64	72	537	478	1216	122	74	198	27	9	33	15	7	15
	152			182			2,231			394								
Blything Union	92	71	114	84	52	100	590	464	1292	131	73	230	13	5	12	23	7	17
							2,346			434								
Wangford Union	in all 184			96	76	125	316	252	351	54	26	56	4	7	19	5	6	10
							919			136								

	More than Two, and less than a Month.			More than One Month, and less than Two.			More than Two, and less than Three.			Three Months and upwards.			Now Remaining.			REMARKS.
	M.	W	C.	M.	W.	C.	M.	W.	C.	M.	W.	C.	M.	W.	C.	
Cosford Union	13	8	25	21	12	35	5	2	12	8	5	15	33	31	63	Of whom 17 are aged and infirm men, 10 ditto women, 6 orphans, and 4 imbecile.
Blything Union	25	13	45	22	18	57	16	11	33	5	2	9	27	17	57	
Wangford Union	5	3	17	5	4	13	4	7	13	9	5	5	54	44	48	

BOSMERE and CLAYDON UNION.

Orders for Admission from April 12th to May 31st 1836.

For Men	88
Women	56
Children	185
Total	329

Of which number 25 cases only came in; viz. 21 men, 15 wives, 3 widows, 1 young woman, and 55 children. In all, 95.

Thirteen cases remained, for varied periods, and 12 still continue in the house.

Of the 13 cases,	7	persons remained in the house	32	days each	-	-	224	days.
	4	- ditto - - -	ditto	- 11	—	-	- 44	—
	4	- ditto - - -	ditto	- 22	—	-	- 88	—
	2	- ditto - - -	ditto	- 33	—	-	- 66	—
	5	- ditto - - -	ditto	- 20	—	-	- 100	—
	15	- ditto - - -	ditto	- 27	—	-	- 405	—
	8	- ditto - - -	ditto	- 5	—	-	- 40	—
	1	- ditto - - -	ditto	- 14	—	-	- 14	—
	7	- ditto - - -	ditto	- 35	—	-	- 245	—
And the 12 cases	42	- ditto - - -	ditto	- 49	—	-	2,058	—
	95						7) 3,284	Days.
							Or, 469	Weeks, 1 d.

The System of Compulsory Apprenticeship pursued in the Incorporated Hundreds of Suffolk and Norfolk, with Suggestions for the future Rules and Regulations.

System of compulsory apprenticeship.

102. The system of compulsory apprenticeship was one of the peculiar features of these Incorporations; the directors and acting guardians having authority to compel poor persons to suffer their children to be apprenticed, and to constrain the occupiers within the limits of the Hundred to receive the children allotted to them, or to contribute towards the charge of apprenticing the children out of the Hundred by fines or otherwise.

Powers conferred on directors and acting guardians.

103. The powers conferred by the local Acts of these Incorporations upon the directors and acting guardians, relative to the apprenticeship of poor children, deserve particular comment.

Passage from Act of Samford hundred, Suffolk.

104. How ample the powers conferred on the directors and acting guardians for this purpose were, will appear from the perusal of the 21st clause of the Act 39 Geo. 3, 1799, for the better and more effectual relief and employment of the poor in the hundred of Samford, in the county of Suffolk.

"And be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for the said directors and acting guardians present at any quarterly or weekly meeting, to let or place out for one year any of the poor children maintained in the said house; and for them, the said directors and acting guardians, present at any such quarterly or weekly meeting, or for the clerk for the time being of the said directors and acting guardians, at any time or times, being thereunto duly authorized by an order of the said directors and acting guardians present at any such quarterly or weekly meeting, with the consent of any two justices of the peace for the said county, to bind by indenture, under the common seal of the said corporation, any such poor children, as also any poor children belonging to any parish within the said hundred, whose parents the said directors and acting guardians shall judge not able to maintain them, to be apprentices for any term not less than three years nor more than seven years (except where the child being a male, shall be above the age of 18 years, or being a female, above the age of 15 years, at the time of such binding, and no such child shall in any case be bound or continue an apprentice after the age of 21, being a male, or after the age of 18, being a female) to any person or persons occupying lands or tenements, or using any trade in any parish, hamlet or place, within the said hundred, whom the said directors and acting guardians shall think proper persons to take apprentices (whether such person or persons be resident within the said hundred or elsewhere) due regard being had to apportion the number of children which shall be bound apprentices, according to the annual sum at which the persons to whom they are hereby directed to be bound shall respectively be assessed by a pound rate to the relief of the poor in any parish within the said hundred; or, (with the like consent) to bind any such children apprentices to the governor of the said house and his successors in such office, or to any other proper person willing to take such apprentices, or to bind any such male children apprentices to any captain, master or owner of any ship or vessel in the sea service willing to take such apprentices, in like manner as churchwardens and overseers of the poor, with the assent of two justices of the peace, are by the laws now in being empowered to bind poor children whose parents are not able to maintain them, to be apprentices; and the persons to whom such children shall, by the said directors and acting guardians, (with such consent of two justices of the peace as aforesaid) be appointed to be bound apprentices, shall be obliged to receive and provide for such apprentices, and to execute a counterpart of the indentures of apprenticeship, in like manner, and under the like penalties, as persons are now obliged by the laws in being to provide for apprentices appointed to be bound by churchwardens and overseers of the poor, with the assent of two justices of the peace; and no apprentice so bound as aforesaid shall (except with the consent of the directors and acting guardians, under their common seal) be assigned or turned over to any other person whomsoever; and all persons to whom such apprentices shall be assigned or turned over, shall be obliged to receive and provide for them, and to execute a counterpart of the assignment, in like manner as the persons to whom they were first bound as aforesaid were obliged to receive and provide for them, and to execute a counterpart of the original indentures of apprenticeship; and in like manner the persons to whom such children shall be let or placed out for one year as aforesaid, shall be obliged to receive and provide for such children in like manner and under the like penalties as they are now obliged by law to provide for apprentices appointed to be bound by churchwardens and overseers,

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with the assent of two justices of the peace; and no such child or children so let out or placed out for one year, shall, (except with the consent of the directors and acting guardians at some quarterly or weekly meeting) be assigned or turned over to any other person whomsoever; and all persons to whom any such child or children shall be so assigned or turned over, shall be obliged to receive and provide for them in the same manner, and under the same penalties, as the persons to whom such children were first let or placed out were obliged to receive and provide for them."

Plans pursued very various.

105. The plans adopted in the several Incorporated Hundreds differed in various respects as to the mode of allotting the children to the occupiers, the rule by which they were distributed, the fine paid for refusal to receive an apprentice, the period of apprenticeship, the permission to assign children to succeeding tenants, the payment or nonpayment of premiums with apprentices, the provision of clothing, &c., the means adopted to procure the performance of the duties of master and apprentice respectively, the apprenticeship of children out of the Hundreds, the means by which the monies for the payment of premiums and expenses for apprenticing children without the Hundreds were obtained, the period which children were required to be maintained in the Hundred-house before they were apprenticed, and their age, and in other matters of less consequence.

Inquiry into efficacy of means adopted to secure equal distribution of burthen, and whether the system of compulsory apprenticeship can be employed as a means to dispauperise the poorer classes.

106. If it were desirable to lay before the Commissioners a complete account of the system of apprenticeship, the course adopted by each of the Hundreds would deserve to be compared upon each of these points of difference. In the limits assigned to this Report, I propose chiefly to examine the efficacy of the means adopted to procure an equal distribution of the burthen upon the rate-payers, and to inquire whether the system of compulsory apprenticeship can be usefully employed as an expedient for removing the pauperism and dependence of the poorer classes.

Plans pursued to procure equal distribution of burthen.

107. The plans pursued in order to accomplish an equal distribution of the burthen of compulsory apprenticeship upon the rate-payers were various, and exhibit how great are the difficulties attending the effort, and how frequently these plans issued in the reproduction, in some other form, of the same evil of an unequal pressure. Without descending into the minutest details, it may be desirable to classify the courses pursued as nearly as possible under various heads, and to illustrate the consequences of the plans adopted by each class while comparing it with the rest.

108. The scale-allowance system being the mode of out-door relief adopted in the several Incorporations, and the Hundred-house being employed as a house of reception, the number of children to be apprenticed was usually determined in one of two ways.

First, The parish officers presented an annual report to the directors and acting guardians of the names of the children in their respective parishes, who were of an age to be apprenticed, and for whom their parents had not found work; or,

Secondly, The parents who alleged they were unable to support or find work for their children, sent them into the workhouse, where they were required to reside a certain period, varying from three months to a year, before they were apprenticed. The directors and acting guardians once in every year proceeded to allot to the occupiers the children born and bred in the house who had attained the required age, and such other children as appeared on the apprentice list, by either of the modes described. 1. The apprentices were distributed by an unrestrained annual ballot. The hundred or parish neglected to keep a register of the apprentices distributed, and they were balloted without reference to the amount of the assessment or to the number allotted in previous years, but the person upon whom the burthen fell was simply selected by lot.

Distribution by ballot in the hundred of Stow.

109. This was the practice in the hundred of Stow, as is stated in the following evidence of Mr. Hart and Mr. Webb, directors of that Incorporation.

Mr. Hart's evidence.

"The names of the children to be apprenticed in the hundred of Stow were sent in by the parishes, in order that they might be balloted at the quarterly meeting. The number of children allotted to each occupier was not generally made proportionate to the assessments; a person having a 10 *l.* assessment might have as many children allotted as a person assessed at 100 *l.* This circumstance occasioned considerable dissatisfaction among the smaller occupiers, who justly complained of the inequality of the burthen. There were great if not insuperable difficulties in distributing the burthen equally. A person having an assessment of 200 *l.* or 300 *l.* could not be expected to take two or three apprentices at once, and the imposition of an apprentice was often an extreme inconvenience to a person having a small assessment. The smaller occupiers having no employment for the apprentices, were generally compelled to transfer them, and pay a premium to the person who took them. The vigilance of the magistrates did not always prevent the children being transferred to improper persons."

(signed) *John George Hart.*"

Mr. Webb's evidence.

"Will you describe the system of apprenticeship in the hundred of Stow?"—"Children were sent into the house by their parents, in order that they might be apprenticed with those who were more permanently in the house. A list of these children was annually sent to the parishes that they might be allotted to the occupiers. This allotment was regulated by the names of the persons considered liable to take apprentices being sent to the house by the parishes, and the children being there distributed by ballot. In the parish of Combs a list of the apprentices allotted from year to year was kept of late years, but formerly no such account was preserved. The allotments therefore had been exceedingly unequal, and the smaller occupiers complained of the system as a grievous nuisance. It was certainly very unjust to the smaller occupiers. I remember an apprentice being sent to a man some years ago, whose rate was not above 3 *l.*"

"What

"What was the effect of this system on the children?"—"The children in our Hundred were apprenticed for 12 months. No respectable person was willing to receive one of those brought up in the house, because their morals generally were so bad that they endangered the morals of the children of families, and because they could not be trusted, and were in every respect useless. The practice, therefore, was to pay a sum of money to get rid of them to some one else; and you may very well suppose that people were not very nice where they put them; 5 *l.* were frequently paid for this transfer. They then got into the hands of small occupiers, who did what they liked with them."

"Did these children generally turn out well?—I know many instances in which they did not."

"When children are apprenticed in towns, what do you think becomes of them?—I think it would be very remarkable if the females, particularly, became respectable characters. The system is altogether bad; but that practice was not much countenanced in our Hundred. In the parish of Combs, of late years great efforts were made to reduce the irregularity of the burthen, and the better distribution of the apprentices lessened the dissatisfaction. We were accustomed to give a premium with the children during the first, second and third years, the premium being less in each successive year."

"(signed) *Jos. A. Webb.*"

System adopted in the hundred of Forehoe, Norfolk.

110. In the Hundred of Forehoe the parish officers deliver to the directors and guardians a list of all children resident in their respective parishes whose age is between 12 and 13, and who are fit for service, and also a list of the occupiers liable to take apprentices. The children are then allotted at a vestry meeting by ballot, the names of the occupiers standing highest on the list being written on tickets, and deposited in one basin, the names of the children in another, and the names of the occupier and child drawn. Only one child is distributed to one occupier, and an occupier taking a child one year is not liable the succeeding year; but the number of children apprenticed is not distributed according to the assessment, each occupier assessed at 10 *l.* being deemed liable to take one in his turn, and persons assessed at 6 *l.* have been obliged to accept apprentices. The children are apprenticed until the Michaelmas after they are 17. In the parish of East Dereham the children were distributed at a vestry meeting by ballot, without any proportion being observed in the numbers allotted according to the said assessment.

System adopted in Bosmere and Claydon, Colneis and Carlford, and Blything hundreds, Suffolk.

111. In the Incorporated Hundreds of Bosmere and Claydon, Colneis and Carlford, and Blything, Suffolk, the apprentices were allotted in numbers proportioned to the assessments, beginning with the larger occupiers, and descending to the smaller. In the Loddon and Clavering Hundreds all the smaller occupiers were compelled to receive one apprentice before the large occupiers took a second. In some of these Hundreds the larger occupier received a certain number of apprentices on account of his assessment, then the person whose assessment was next in amount, and so on, till the children were apprenticed to the smallest ratepayer, when the largest occupier was again liable to receive the number apportioned to his assessment. In this class the plan adopted in the Blything hundred appears to have been the most elaborate, and to have a greater appearance of justice in it, than that adopted by the others. The apprentices being numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, &c., the following was the rule by which they were successively allotted to the different occupiers, as respects the order and the proportion in which the burthen was distributed.

*"Apprentices shall be allotted at the annual, and bound at the Michaelmas quarterly meetings, and allotted according to the following rules of progression:

"Every person occupying 300 *l.* per annum, who has six,	1.	3.	6.	10.	15.	21.			
Ditto - - - 250 *l.* - - ditto - - five,	2.	5.	9.	14.	20.				
Ditto - - - 200 *l.* - - ditto - - four,	4.	8.	13.	19.					
Ditto - - - 150 *l.* - - ditto - three,	7.	12.	18.						
Ditto - - - 100 *l.* - - ditto - - two,	11.	17.							
Ditto - - - 50 *l.* - - ditto - - one,	16.								

"And that all occupiers of lands and tenements between any two of the above classes shall take an apprentice before the occupier of the inferior of such two classes. That then all occupiers under 50 *l.* per annum down to 10 *l.*, liable to take apprentices, shall take one each according to the amount of their occupations, beginning with the highest. That in all cases where more than one child is to be apprenticed to any parish, the oldest child shall be first allotted, and so on to the youngest, unless their appointed masters shall otherwise agree about the appointment of them. That two girls shall not be apprenticed in succession to the same person immediately following each other, if it be possible to order the appointment otherwise."

Source of injustice in the foregoing plan.

112. If all the occupiers had remained stationary, a nearer approach to an equal distribution of the burthen would have been obtained by this system, than by the preceding; but as in some parishes the large occupations were held for short periods only, and the new occupant was considered liable to receive the number of apprentices apportioned to his assessment immediately on his arrival, whether the smaller occupations had received their share or not, the burthen, in such parishes, was entirely thrown on the large occupiers. In other parishes the large occupiers held their farms so long, that the liability to receive an apprentice

* Taken from bye-laws of Wangford hundred, where the regulations in this respect resembled the Blything.

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tice descended through every grade of the scale, until every rate-payer assessed at 10*l.* had been compelled to take an apprentice. In such parishes the inconvenience was more severely felt by one rate-payer than another, inasmuch as the trade of one rate-payer afforded means of employing the child, whereas, in many instances, no such means existed, and then the imposition of the apprentice simply occasioned the exaction of a fine of 10*l.*, a penalty which was a cruel hardship to many industrious rate-payers of small means, struggling against adverse circumstances. Even where apprentices could be received, no equality in the pressure of such a burthen could be obtained, by apportioning the numbers allotted according to the assessments. The extent of the inconvenience could not be determined by such a rule, but would be increased or diminished by the circumstances of the family, the wants of their business or trade, and many other domestic matters, too various to be appreciable by any single test, or capable of being collected in such a way as to form a perfect scale by which the equal pressure of this tax might be insured.

Evidence of Mr. Foreman, of Halesworth.

113. The following is the evidence of Mr. Foreman, of Halesworth, on this subject:

"I was closely connected with the Incorporation of the Hundred of Blything, for 20 years, having acted as assistant to Mr. White, the clerk of that Hundred, during the whole of that period. I have therefore had sufficient opportunities of witnessing the effects of the apprentice system, which was pursued in that Incorporation. The practice was, to allot the children annually to the occupiers in the several parishes, in proportion to their assessments, beginning with the largest occupier, and descending to those assessed for smaller sums. When the largest occupier had taken the number of children usually allotted to an assessment of that amount, they were sent to others in sucsession. Sometimes three children were forced upon a large occupier at one binding. I have frequently known two bound at the same time to one occupier. They were bound between the ages of 13 and 15, and were always apprenticed until they were 18."

"The average term was about four years. In some parishes, as the parish of Blythburgh, for example, this burthen fell altogether on the larger occupiers. The occupations in this parish are large, and the assessments are therefore high. As soon as a farmer had taken an occupation, he became liable to receive apprentices to the full extent of his assessment, and he seldom worked out his number before his lease expired. His successor was subject to a renewal of the same burthen, and thus the apprentices were almost, if not altogether, allotted to the large occupiers in such a parish. Even in the cases of the largest occupiers, the services of the children were frequently not wanted. I have known frequent appeals to the board of directors and acting guardians from such occupiers, and the fines were often paid, rather than the children should be allotted. In the other parishes where the large occupiers have retained their farms for several successive years, their liabilities have been exhausted, and the burthen has rapidly descended to the smaller occupiers. I have known small rate-payers put to the greatest inconvenience, by having the apprentices forced upon them when they had no need of their services, and were too poor to pay the fine."

"In such cases the children were allotted, whether it was possible to receive them or not. They were allowed to be transferred, a premium varying from 5*l.* to 10*l.* being generally paid. I have known as much as 15*l.* paid."

System pursued in the Wangford hundred.

114. In order to diminish the amount of injustice thus inflicted, the system was in the Wangford Hundred further elaborated. The scale of the order of succession, and number of children distributed according to the assessment, resembled that adopted in the Blything hundred, but premiums varying with the amount of assessment were given with each apprentice. Thus, with an apprentice allotted in respect of an assessment of

£. 50 and upwards	£. 5	5	–	premium was paid.
40 and under 20*l.*	6	–	–	—
30 and under 40*l.*	8	–	–	—
20 and under 30*l.*	10	–	–	—
15 and under 20*l.*	11	–	–	—
10 and under 15*l.*	12	–	–	—

The whole or part of these premiums was given, as appeared reasonable, on account of the length of service required of each child. The penalties paid by the occupier for refusing to receive apprentices were also proportioned to the assessment in respect of which the apprentices had been allotted.

For every apprentice allotted in respect of an assessment of

£. 50 and upwards	£. 10	–	–	fine was paid.
40 and under 50*l.*	9	–	–	—
30 and under 40*l.*	7	–	–	—
20 and under 30*l.*	5	–	–	—
15 and under 20*l.*	3	10	–	—
12 and under 15*l.*	2	10	–	—
10 and under 12*l.*	2	–	–	—

The elaboration of this rule proves how grossly unjust was the rule adopted in other Hundreds to regulate the compulsory allotment of children; and it is evident, that as far as the equal distribution of the pecuniary burthen was concerned, a nearer approach to equality was obtained. The remaining slighter faults in the adjustment of the burthen were submitted to with satisfaction, in comparison with the system adopted elsewhere. In this Hundred in-coming tenants were also allowed to take the apprentices of the preceding occupier by assignment, in default of which arrangement they were liable to a new allotment of children.

children. That this system failed to give universal satisfaction may be inferred, because the allotment of children in the Wangford hundred ceased to be compulsory in 1834. Larger premiums were thereafter paid to such persons as took apprentices, and the payment of the premium took place by instalments diffused over the period of apprenticeship. Soon after it ceased to be compulsory, the apprentice system fell almost into disuse in this Hundred.

115. Various other systems equally elaborate were adopted in other parishes, as in the parish of Aylsham, for example, and in some other Incorporations, owing to the influence of local circumstances, particularly of the mode of taking the averages, as in the Hundreds of Tunstead and Happing; but it might easily be shown how each of these failed to attain an equal distribution of the burthen.

Other systems pursued elsewhere.

116. The following evidence of Mr. Runting, master of Shipmeadow workhouse, Wangford Union, displays the oppression of small occupiers practised under the ordinary system, and the comparative advantages obtained by the adoption of the two graduated scales of premiums and penalties adopted in this Hundred:—

Evidence of Mr. Runting.

"I have always found the system of compulsory apprenticeship to be oppressive to the occupiers, and especially to the small ones, because the occupiers assessed at 50*l.* and upwards could in general well pay the penalty of 10*l.* for refusing to take the apprentice, and thereby cause the allotment to fall upon the small occupiers, who, although the assessment might be only 12*l.* or 15*l.*, were obliged to take the apprentice or pay the penalty of 10*l.*, the same as those assessed at 50*l.* and upwards, which you will see by the bye-laws, a copy of which I now hand you; but when the regulations for allotting the children to be bound out as apprentices was altered in 1832, by which the occupiers assessed at 50*l.* received a less premium, and paid a higher penalty than the occupier assessed at 12*l.* or 15*l.*, it gave, I think, almost general satisfaction, because the system was founded upon the principle of equity. But I can state from my own experience, that the principle of compulsory apprenticeship is injurious not only to the occupiers, but also to the poor, as I have for some years always found the parents extremely anxious to send their children into the house to be bound out; and as the children come into the house for that purpose at Lady-day, and were allotted at June, and not sent to their places until September, many of them, during six months, contracted such a liking for the house that they became complete paupers in their minds and principles; and I have had many of them come direct from their places, at the expiration of their time, into the house as paupers; and those that have done so have not often turned out well; but I am glad to be able to state this has not been a universal rule, as many of them have made very good servants. I beg to hand you the following two cases of compulsory apprenticeship."

"Case of Mr. Richard Bucket, St. Lawrence.—In 1830, Mr. Bucket stood on the books assessed at 28*l.*, and Hannah Moore was allotted to him, with a penalty of 10*l.* if he refused to take her. She was by no means a good girl at the time of the allotment. Mr. Richard Bucket at the same time had six small children, and himself and wife were obliged to work hard on the land to support them. Mr. Bucket at first refused to take the apprentice, and I was obliged to apply to the magistrates to enforce the penalty; but he afterwards accepted the apprentice; she did not conduct herself well, and ran away several times, and was brought to me in a state of destitution. By order of the committee, I applied to the magistrates, and summoned him to appear to show cause why he did not support his apprentice; when the magistrates ordered him to go out and purchase about forty shillings' worth of clothing, while I remained in their room with the girl, and to pay the penalty of 10*l.*, and for me to receive the girl into the house. Mr. Bucket borrowed the money and paid me, since which time I have often had the above girl in the house as a pauper; and not long ago, the same girl was put to bed in the house with a base child."

"Case of Mr. B——, of Worlingham.—In 1831, Mr. B—— stood on the committee-books assessed at 25*l.* 15*s.*, and H. Ellett was allotted to him, with a penalty of 10*l.* if he refused to take the apprentice; which at first he did, and several times called on me and the late Mr. W. Bobbitt, to try to get off the allotment. When he found he could not, he wished me to purchase a horse of him, to enable him to pay the penalty; which as I declined doing, he agreed to take the boy, and the indentures were signed. The father of this boy sent him and another son into the house for the purpose of being bound out at the same time; which second son was allotted to another occupier. I have often been told that the father of the above boys used to win or lose large sums of money at cards about the time the boys were in the house; but to my own knowledge, soon after the boys were bound out, he hired a public house in Beccles, where I believe he now lives; at least he did not many months since, as I was in his house and spoke to him respecting the boys."

"I think the above two cases will be quite sufficient, without any others, to show the effects of compulsory apprenticeship."

117. The amount of the assessment was not a rule by which the extent of the means which the rate-payer possessed, of providing for the lodging, maintenance, clothing and education of children in a useful trade or calling, could be determined. Not only, therefore, in the most regular operation of such a rule was there occasioned some inequality in the pressure of the burthen, but this mode of allotting the children was not calculated to produce the result proposed to be accomplished by the system, since the children were allotted to rate-payers, whether able to lodge, maintain or clothe them with comfort or not, and whether they had the means of employing the children or not; in other words, without any regard to the object which it was alleged the directors and acting guardians had in view, viz., the instruction of the children in a useful trade or calling.

The distribution of the children according to the amount of the assessment, destructive of their interests.

Otherwise injurious and unjust.

118. Thus a large occupier might be forced to receive those apprentices at once whose services he did not need, and a smaller occupier would sustain a greater inconvenience with the allotment of one apprentice, and in both cases the proposed education of the children would not be procured.

Apprentices displaced servants.

119. The pauper apprentices, moreover, not unfrequently displaced servants supporting themselves by the wages of their labour, without having recourse to the parish.

This interference with the independent labourer allies the plan closely to the allowance system.

Evidence of Mr. Atmer.

120. Evidence of Mr. Atmer.—"I keep the Angel inn, Halesworth. I had not been three months in this inn before an apprentice was allotted to me from Bulcamp house. I had no need of her services, and I was obliged to discharge a good maid-servant to take her in, which I very reluctantly did. I had a great deal of trouble with this girl; I had frequently to apply to the parish officers on account of her insolent behaviour; she was slovenly and disobedient. When I reproved her, she answered, 'You are obliged to keep me, and I shall do as I please.' When her apprenticeship had terminated, I did not keep her any longer, and I would rather pay 10*l.* than take another. I considered it very unjust and very hard to have a child forced upon me in this way.

"As witness my hand this 10th day of June,

"*William Atmer.*"

Children removed from service to be apprentices.

121. Mr. Bray moreover gives evidence that the parents removed their children from service, in order that they might transfer the responsibility of providing for them to the Incorporation.

Compulsory apprenticeship without the Hundreds.

122. The practice of apprenticing children out of the Hundreds chiefly prevailed in the Samford, Colneis and Carlford, and Bosmere and Claydon Hundreds, Suffolk, and the Forehoe Hundred, Norfolk, and slightly in the Wangford Hundred, Suffolk. In the Colneis and Carlford, Bosmere and Claydon, and Wangford Hundreds, if the occupier to whom the child was first allotted, refused to receive him, a fine of 10*l.* was inflicted. The apprentice was then offered with the fine as a premium to a second occupier, and if he refused, a second fine was levied. The 20*l.* thus accumulated were used as a premium to apprentice the child out of the Hundreds in the Colneis and Carlford and Bosmere and Claydon Hundreds. In the Wangford the apprentice was offered a third time to the occupiers, with the accumulated fines, then amounting to 20*l.*, and if a third time refused, was then apprenticed out of the Hundreds, the accumulated fine being employed to pay the premium and defray the costs. In the Forehoe Hundred this was attempted after the application had been once refused. The practice pursued in the Samford Hundred is thus described by Mr. Catchpole, the governor of Tattingstone workhouse, whose skill and activity in the performance of his duties have been such as to derive from the system whatever advantage it could afford.

Evidence of Mr. Catchpole.

"I have been governor of Tattingstone workhouse 17 years. The system of allotting the children to the occupiers in the hundred of Samford has ceased 10 or 12 years. That system gave extreme dissatisfaction to the occupiers; I should say that the children were refused by the occupiers, fines being paid for 12 out of 20 of the children offered, and the Hundred still burthened with their maintenance in the workhouse. The occupiers were still liable to have the children allotted in the following years; and I found when I came, girls in the house who had been allotted three years in succession, and refused. In the first year after I came 27 children were allotted, of whom 16 were refused, and the fine of 10*l.* paid on each. After a few years the system of allotting the children ceased, and then we commonly apprenticed them out of the Hundreds, or sent the girls out as servants, but the major part were apprenticed. We generally paid a premium of 10*l.* with girls, and from 10*l.* to 15*l.* with boys. Besides the premium, there were, of course, other expenses on account of indentures and travelling, &c. Half the premium was customarily contributed by the parish, the other half by the Hundred. The advantage obtained was that the children ceased to be chargeable to the Hundred. Up to the last year or two the numbers of children thus apprenticed out of the Hundreds had gradually increased, and, unless arrested by some order, my impression is that the numbers would continue about the same. Of these children several have been apprenticed in Ipswich, Colchester, London, Manningtree, Harwich and elsewhere. I have deemed it my duty to make such inquiries concerning the apprentices as my other numerous duties as governor in the Samford hundred would permit me to do.

"As witness my hand, this 8th day of June 1836.

"*Wm. Catchpole.*"

Extent to which this system prevailed in the various hundreds.

123. The extent to which the different systems were pursued in several of the Incorporated Hundreds will appear from the following Returns made to me from the governors of the respective Hundred Houses of industry:

STOW HUNDRED.

124.—THE Number of Children allotted to Occupiers in the following Years:

1826	6	1831	49
1827	6	1832	67
1828	12	1833	59
1829	40	1834	35
1830	26		

125.—LODDON

125.—Loddon and Clavering Hundreds.

	Number of Apprentices.	Fines Paid for refusing to receive them	Number Apprenticed out of Hundreds.	Sums Paid as Premiums.	
		£. s. d.		£. s. d.	
1821	24	10 – –	1	75 12 –	Average 3 guineas each.
1822	28	10 – –	– – –	88 4 –	
1823	37	– – –	2	116 11 –	
1824	34	10 – –	3	107 2 –	
1825	22	– – –	– – –	69 6 –	
1826	20	– – –	2	63 – –	
1827	25	– – –	1	78 15 –	
1828	20	10 – –	1	63 – –	
1829	25	10 – –	– – –	78 15 –	
1830	24	– – –	1	75 12 –	
1831	34	– – –	1	107 2 –	
1832	42	– – –	2	132 6 –	
1833	27	– – –	1	85 1 –	
1834	32	– – –	– – –	67 4 –	2 guin[s].
1835	50	– – –	5	105 – –	

126.—Bosmere and Claydon Hundreds.

	MONEY PAID AS FINES.			Children Bound in the Hundred.	Bound Out.	TOTAL.
	Occupiers.	Parishes.	TOTAL.			
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.			
1821	70 – –	40 – –	110 – –	38	2	40
1822	30 – –	80 – –	110 – –	29	1	30
1823	110 – –	50 – –	160 – –	18	1	19
1824	50 – –	20 – –	70 – –	16	5	21
1825	30 – –	60 – –	90 – –	14	3	17
1826	30 – –	20 – –	50 – –	10	5	15
1827	70 – –	20 – –	90 – –	15	2	17
1828	70 – –	100 – –	170 – –	11	5	16
1829	50 – –	40 – –	90 – –	6	– – –	6
1830	60 – –	40 – –	100 – –	22	5	27
1831	20 – –	40 – –	60 – –	13	2	15
1832	60 – –	130 – –	190 – –	7	3	10
1833	– – –	70 – –	70 – –	17	4	21
1834	– – –	60 – –	60 – –	11	1	12
1835	10 – –	– – –	10 – –	1	– – –	1

127.—Wangford Hundred.

	Number of Children Bound.	Premiums Given.	Penalties Paid.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1824	85	320 – –	230 – –
1825	63	340 – –	220 – –
1826	73	340 – –	230 – –
1827	74	360 – –	260 – –
1828	74	350 – –	230 – –
1829	45	210 – –	160 – –
1830	70	– – –	200 – –
1831	93	– – –	340 – –
1832	59	379 15 –	313 10 –
	636	2,299 15 –	2,183 10 –

Appendix (B.)

No. 1.
Report of
J. Phillips Kay, Esq.
M. D.

128.—Colneis and Carlford Hundreds.

	Apprentices Bound in the Hundreds.	Amount of Fines Paid.	Apprentices Bound out of the Hundreds.	Premium Given.
		£. s. d.		£. s. d.
1821	75	230 – –	2	30 – –
1822	70	170 – –	2	23 – –
1823	59	140 – –	7	95 16 –
1824	47	120 – –	—	—
1825	30	100 – –	4	55 – –
1826	38	90 – –	3	45 – –
1827	44	70 – –	9	103 10 –
1828	27	70 – –	2	24 – –
1829	41	200 – –	1	16 – –
1830	41	170 – –	6	79 – –
1831	50	250 – –	10	137 – –
1832	21	70 – –	3	38 – –
1833	23	110 – –	1	10 – –
1834	21	40 – –	2	22 – –

129.—Blything Hundred.

	Fines Paid.	Amount.	Number Bound from House.	From Parishes by Magistrates.
		£. s. d.		
1821	2	20 – –	25	—
1822	4	40 – –	42	—
1823	–	–	47	—
1824	2	40 – –	19	—
1825	3	30 – –	58	—
1826	–	–	31	—
1827	2	20 – –	25	—
1828	–	–	14	—
1829	–	–	22	—
1830	5	50 – –	41	20
1831	13	130 – –	67	13
1832	14	140 – –	72	20
1833	12	120 – –	85	17
	1	5 16 6	—	—
1834	15	150 – –	62	12
1835	8	80 – –	20	—

130.—Samford Hundred.

	Bound into large Towns out of the Hundred.	Number of Years for all.	Premiums therewith.	Bound into rural Districts out of the Hundred.	Number of Years.	Premiums.
			£. s. d.			£. s. d.
1820	7	27	63 – –	3	20	15 – –
1821	9	37	90 – –	4	16	30 – –
1822	10	38	92 – –	7	35	45 – –
1823	23	101	281 – –	7	26	67 – –
1824	28	124	278 – –	12	59	123 – –
1825	32	156	375 – –	5	26	65 – –
1826	22	123	222 – –	5	32	58 – –
1827	24	105	259 – –	6	30	57 – –
1828	21	108	234 – –	7	39	76 – –
1829	44	234	476 – –	13	87	132 – –
1830	23	119	256 – –	8	58	94 – –
1831	22	108	229 – –	4	26	44 – –
1832	34	152	383 – –	4	18	42 – –
1833	19	99	201 – –	3	19	41 – –
1834	13	72	162 – –	—	—	—
1835	15	78	164 – –	7	43	55 – –

346 bound into large towns.
95 – – rural districts, out of hundred.
And 59 – within the hundred.

In all 500 averaging 33 ⅓ yearly.

	£.	s.	d.	£. s. d.
Amount of premiums paid into large towns				3,763 – –
Annual average	250	17	4	
Average to each apprentice	10	17	6	
Amount of premiums paid in rural districts out of hundred				944 – –
Annual averages	62	18	8	
Average to each apprentice	9	18	9	
Amount of premiums paid out of hundred, the annual average	313	16	–	4,707 – –

Average number bound annually out of hundred

Into large towns	23 ⅓
— rural districts	6 ⅓

131. By a natural coincidence, the labour-rate and the system of compulsory apprenticeship were both recognised in the hundreds of Samford and Forehoe. The principle of the labour-rate involves the assumption of the responsibility of providing labour for the poor, and renders it therefore unnecessary that they should endeavour to discover, deserve and retain it themselves. The system of a compulsory allotment of apprentices has a parallel tendency. The Incorporation assumes the responsibility to provide food, clothing, lodging and education in some useful trade for the children of the poor, and thus weakens, if it does not sever, the bonds which naturally bind together the members of families—the affection with which the parent is stimulated to provide for his children, and the filial gratitude and duty which enclose the child receiving these benefits. When the Incorporation discharges the parental office, the father ceases to do so, and the child is to this extent separated from his parent, that, as the father has ceased to perform his natural duties, the child is weaned from his natural affections. The source whence the provision for his present and future wants flows is an abstraction which awakens no regard; he is rendered an orphan before his time by the unnatural interference of the law.

Evil tendencies of the system of compulsory apprenticeship, parental and filial duties superseded.

132. The evil is not confined within this limit upon either side.

133. In a district where it is usual for an Incorporation for the relief of the poor to assume the duty of providing for the apprenticeship of the children of the poor, the responsibilities attending marriage are lessened, and it is degraded. Among the poor, at least equally with the more wealthy, the duty of providing for their offspring ought to call forth new exertions and hopes, all tending to promote a virtuous and healthful tone of mind. To transfer these responsibilities to the Incorporation is to render marriage merely the means of gratifying an instinct. The man and wife in such a district become the parents of pauper apprentices.

Responsibilities attending marriage lessened.

134. In proportion as marriages are instinctive and not reasonable, they are premature and improvident. When they are thus the results of any wayward impulse rather than the consequences of reflection, applied to the removal of those obstructions which create time for the exercise of prudence, they are seldom happy.

Marriages become premature and improvident.

135. As the parents ripen in age in such a district, they find their children are all gone ere they are aware. One is in the workhouse, apprenticed to the governor; another is in the county town, apprenticed to a milliner; another is at sea, apprenticed to the captain of a West Indian ship; a fourth is perhaps apprenticed to the publican of a neighbouring village. This method of providing for the instruction and training of the children of the poor is not natural, and I deem it to be injurious.

Consequent dispersion of family.

136. The place of the parent cannot be wholly supplied by the master of the apprentice. Instruction in his trade and calling he has a right to expect, and in well-managed apprenticeships it will be the interest of the master to afford this education to the child. But moral training, which is a parent's peculiar duty, forms no part of the acknowledged function of the apprentice's master. The general apprenticeship of the children of the poor could only be justified on two grounds, one that the parents of poor children were so utterly unfit to be entrusted with the care of their children as to require the interference of the state; and secondly, that the persons to whom they were entrusted were not only capable and willing, but did practically train the children in such a way as to fit them for the performance of their social duties.

The place of the parent cannot be wholly supplied by the master.

137. Does experience exhibit this to be the result of the compulsory apprenticeship of the children of the poor?

138. When the child is removed from his father's cottage to be apprenticed, all his wants are in future supplied by the Incorporation. He derives nothing from his parents—he seems to owe them nothing. The Incorporation fills the place of the parent in every respect excepting in this, that there is nothing in the Incorporation which procures a tribute of gratitude from the child. The apprentice owes his parish no duty nor respect—he pays it none; on the contrary, the pauper apprentice, like the pauper, hates his parish and his parish master, and consequently becomes a nuisance rather than an advantage to his employer.

Filial respect and gratitude at an end; evil consequences to child.

 139. The

Memorial from parish of Walton.

139. The effects of such a system on the children are attested by the following memorial from the principal owners and occupiers of the parish of Walton, in the hundred of Colneis:

To the Directors and acting Guardians of the Hundreds of Colneis and Carlford.

"We, the undersigned, being the principal owners and occupiers of lands and premises liable to take parish apprentices in the parish of Walton, in the hundred of Colneis, do earnestly and respectfully request the directors and guardians will not send any more parish apprentices to any of the owners and occupiers of the said parish, as from the great inconvenience and nuisance we have experienced for so many years from taking such apprentices, we are fully determined not to take any more; therefore, under such circumstances, we are of opinion to send more would have the effect (as it has before) of taking 20 *l.* from some of us; and, after having paid such forfeits, the intended apprentice will still be in the Hundred house at Nacton, at the charge of the parish of Walton aforesaid."

Charles Collett.
William Fulcher.
William Page.
William Boby.
Abraham Abbott.
James Pipe.
Henry Wilkin.
Benjamin Green.
Staunton Julian.
Thomas Woodgate.
Joseph Brigg."

Consequences of apprenticing children at a distance.

140. When the apprentices were bound out of the Hundreds, their misfortunes were generally increased. The premiums offered with the children proved an irresistible temptation to needy persons to apply for an apprentice at the Hundred house, whether they wanted the services of the apprentice or not, or whether they could instruct him in any useful calling or not. Their sole object often was to secure the premium. Ten pounds or twenty pounds were wanted to pay a pressing demand. To avoid a warrant of distress for rent due, or for a bill for their stock in trade, some of these petty tradesmen eagerly sought the premium, and thus removed the imminent danger which threatened them. The future care of the apprentice, though a burden which they had often but slender means to encounter, had not such terrors as the present peril. The representations they were thus induced to make to the directors and acting guardians had perhaps the effect of blinding them to the consequences of placing the children with persons who could but ill afford to support them, and whose means of educating them were most meagre. I cannot persuade myself that a desire to remove the burthen of a pauperized population was the chief motive which actuated the boards of these Incorporations in this matter; but if this mode of apprenticing the children was undertaken solely with a view to the advantage of the children, it lamentably failed attaining that result.

Class of persons into whose hands children fall.

141. It so happened that the class of persons to whom the children were apprenticed were generally petty tradesmen of a low caste, who were usually unscrupulous in the neglect of their duties to the children. A parish apprentice is regarded as a defenceless child deserted by its natural protectors, and whose legal guardian, the parish, is only anxious to remove the burthen of its maintenance at the least possible cost, and with the least possible trouble. The apprenticeship of other children is watched by their parents. Their food, their clothing, their lodging, are all required to be consistent with their health and comfort—their progress in the art or trade is a subject of frequent inquiry; the parent or guardian is in such cases always ready to protect or defend his child or ward. Not so the parish. The overseer performs his duties for one year, and is succeeded by his neighbour. Not so the Incorporation, the directors and acting guardians are humane men, but their family is a whole Hundred; comprising 20 or 30 parishes, and they cannot devote that sedulous attention to the case of each apprentice which a parent brings to the interests of his child.

Final destiny of many of the children.

142. Meanwhile, the parish apprentice was too prone to provoke, and his selfish master too eager to find, occasion to quarrel. After a certain interval had been allowed to elapse, means were often taken to disgust the child with his occupation, and to render his situation so irksome as to make him abscond. It will appear from the evidence which I have collected, that many children have thus been driven to ruin. The rural parishes have thus made a large annual contribution to the number of the juvenile offenders and felons of the cities, and especially of the metropolis. The system resembled the conscript law of Napoleon, in the injury it inflicted on the poor. The destinies of the children were somewhat different; the conscripts became, to a large extent, the victims of war; the apprentices, of crime.

Evil effects of system on the parents.

143. The more intelligent yeomen soon discovered that this system corrupted the parents, so as frequently to induce them to take their children from the farmer's service, in order to oblige the Incorporation to provide for the child by apprenticing it (*see* evidence of Mr. Webb, and Mr. Bray), and that instead of having a useful servant, the law consigned to them the nuisance of an idle and disorderly apprentice. How great this nuisance was, is proved by the amount of fines paid to avoid the infliction; at one period half the apprentices allotted during a series of years, in the Colneis and Carlford hundreds, were refused, and the fines consequently paid. In the hundreds of Loes and Wilford, 53 apprentices were, on the average, annually allotted during 24 years; and it appears from the report of the committee appointed to investigate the receipts and expenditure, for 24 years previously to the dissolution of that Incorporation, that 5,000 *l.* had been paid in that period, by the owners and occupiers, to avoid the imposition of apprentices.

One cause of perseverance in this pernicious system.

144. The system of apprenticing children out of the Incorporated hundreds must, to a certain extent, have been fostered by the advantage supposed to be obtained from their ceasing to be chargeable to the parish to which they originally belonged. An effort was thus gradually

gradually developed, to transfer the pauperism of the rural parishes to the towns and cities, or to procure the removal of the apparently inevitable burthen of the support of an idle and improvident class of labourers from one rural district to another. Whatever motives actuated the originators and promoters of the scheme of compulsory apprenticeship, it failed to dispauperize and elevate the class whose benefit ought to have been its sole object. In practice it generally degenerated into an attempt to shift the burthen of pauperism. While, however, one Hundred was diligently employed in burthening its neighbours, they were all intent upon a similar project, which procured an effectual restoration of the balance. There remained the law charges and other expenses incurred in this astonishing game of see-saw, which, like all similar feats of those wonderful machinators, the parish authorities, filled the pockets of a host of parasites with the wages of the poor.

The price paid for those results.

145. What was the price sometimes paid for the results actually obtained by the system of compulsory apprenticeship, may be inferred from the following account of the cost of this expedient, during a period of successive years, in the hundred of Samford. The whole expenditure for the relief of the poor (including this charge), is given in the same years, to enable the reader to estimate the comparative pressure of the burthen. I deem it but justice to add, that the system of compulsory apprenticeship from the hundred of Samford appears to have been conducted with considerable skill and care, both as respects the well-being of the apprentice, and the advantage which the Hundred obtained by the cessation of the chargeability of the children. The great attention paid to their duties by the directors and acting guardians of this Hundred rendered it in many respects a model to the rest of the Incorporations.

146. Samford Hundred, Suffolk.

Tattingstone House, 16 June 1836.

RETURN of Expenses of Apprenticing and placing Children out of the Hundred, in each Year from 1824 to 1836; including Clothing, Fees, Law Expenses, Journies, and all other Incidental Expenses; and Amount of the Part of Premiums paid in each Year by the Parishes within the Hundred, and Amount of the General Expenses of the Hundred for the Relief of the Poor in each year.

Lady-day to Lady-day.	Amount expended in apprenticing and placing out Children and Servants.	Amount of Parts of Premiums received from Parishes.	Balance paid from the Hundred Funds.	Amount of Expenses for Relief of the Poor.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1824 to 1825 - -	654 5 2	262 19 3	391 5 11	5,803 18 3
1825 – 1826 - -	664 1 6	159 – –	505 1 6	5,604 12 3
1826 – 1827 - -	482 15 11	139 15 –	343 – 11	5,523 16 7
1827 – 1828 - -	590 1 3	128 19 –	461 2 3	5,565 17 7
1828 – 1829 - -	722 9 1	152 6 6	570 2 7	5,219 8 2
1829 – 1830 - -	912 4 11	308 5 –	603 19 11	5,506 15 8
1830 – 1831 - -	556 11 6	109 – –	447 11 6	5,283 9 8
1831 – 1832 - -	544 9 6	102 10 –	441 19 6	5,160 7 11½
1832 – 1833 - -	481 5 6	209 10 –	271 15 6	5,325 18 10
1833 – 1834 - -	546 1 10	111 – –	435 1 10	4,905 6 11
1834 – 1835 - -	391 10 6	24 10 –	367 – 6	4,520 3 3
1835 – 1836 - -	436 10 –	157 – –	279 10 –	3,661 10 6¾
	6,982 6 8	- - -	- - -	62,081 5 8

To Dr. Kay,
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, &c.

Wm. Catchpole,

147. The evidence which follows corroborates the general statements made in the preceding portion of this Report.

Evidence of Mr. Bray.

" I became governor of Barham House of industry in 1818. At that period the system of allotting the children to the occupiers, and apprenticing them out of the Hundred, had, from the encouragement given to it, proceeded to a considerable extent. 30 or 40 children were sent into the workhouse every year by their parents, in order that they might be apprenticed by the Incorporation; and about 30 others, who were more permanent inmates of the house, were usually apprenticed every year."

" The paupers were aware that the directors and acting guardians had power to compel the occupiers to take their children, and they were usually ready to throw the burden on the occupier by such means. A father, for example, would say to an occupier, ' I'll send my boy to the house, and then you'll be obliged to take him or pay a fine.' I know the labourers have taken their children from situations in farmers' services, in order that they might be apprenticed, and that the duty of providing for them might thus be removed from themselves to the directors and acting guardians."

" My experience leads me to say, that seven-tenths of the children thus apprenticed were complained of by their masters as useless and disorderly; the discontent among the farmers on account of this nuisance was very great."

" The amount of fines paid by the occupiers rather than take the children (20*l.* for each child) was very considerable. The fines thus received were paid with the children as a

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premium for their apprenticeship in the towns. These premiums induced a class of persons to make application to the directors and acting guardians for these children who had no real need of their services, but whose chief, if not sole object, was to obtain the 20*l.* premium paid with each child. These persons were usually milliners, straw-bonnet-makers, shoemakers and petty tradesmen. The pauperism of the children was thus transferred to another parish."

"Of the children thus apprenticed out of the Hundreds very few turned out well; they got into the hands of a class of persons who could not maintain them well, and who were not sufficiently respectable to take care of their morals, and who were willing and ready to get rid of them as early as they could. I have known girls driven to prostitution by the usage they experienced from their masters. The children of the labourers will be much happier and better off now that the apprentice system is at an end, than they were when this system was adopted."

"The directors and acting guardians became so well aware of the mischief arising from apprenticing the children in the towns, that they reduced the premium given with each child one-half, and threw other obstacles in the way, which considerably diminished the number of the children thus sent out of the hundreds."

"As witness my hand this 6th day of June 1836,

"*J. P. Bray.*"

Evidence of Mr. Haill, Ipswich.

148. "I was overseer of the parish of St. Matthew's, about 12 years, and vestry clerk of the parish of St. Peter, 21 years. I have, during this period, had abundant opportunity of witnessing the effects of apprenticing children from the Hundred houses of the county, in the town of Ipswich. A premium of 10*l.* and 15*l.* was usually paid with the children. Very needy persons generally took the children, not from their want of their services, but from their desire to get the premium. I remember having called upon a woman for rates, who said she would pay me when the child was bound. I objected to the binding, because she only paid her rate just before the child was bound. I found after these children were bound, in many cases, that I could not obtain a rate from the persons who had taken the apprentices, without distraining their goods. It was evident that the governors of the workhouses wished to transfer the paupers from the country parishes into the town, and they were so eager about it because, in my opinion, they got a premium upon each child bound out of their hundred."

"Half of the persons to whom the children were apprenticed, were eager to rid themselves of the apprentice as soon as they had got hold of the premium. Half of the apprentices were bound to no trade; persons who could not afford to keep a maid servant, took the apprentice for the sake of the premium; the child learned no trade. Half of the girls were apprenticed to persons who would describe themselves as dress-makers, and obtain the apprentice in that way."

"In several cases the apprentice was dependant on the parish, and a great many of them turned out ill. I do not think you would find in Ipswich five cases out of 20, among the females, that turned out well."

"The poor-rates of the parishes of St. Matthew and St. Peter have been much increased by this system."

"As witness my hand, this 10th day of June 1836.

"*James Haill.*"

Evidence of Mr. Hatch.

149. "I was the assistant-overseer of St. Margaret's parish, which, excepting St. Clement's, is the largest parish in Ipswich, during 15 years."

"A great many children have been apprenticed in Ipswich from the neighbouring Hundreds. This was evidently done to a great extent for the sake of getting settlements for the children in the town of Ipswich, and removing the burthen of supporting them from the Hundreds into the town."

"What class of persons took the children?—The girls were taken by straw-bonnet-makers, petty shopkeepers and other persons of inferior means, to whom the premium was an object. The chief thing these people had in view, in my mind, was the premium. We have had to appeal to the magistrates against great numbers of these cases, and in some instances we were able to show the parties about to take apprentices did not even pay their rates. A great many little shoemakers used to take boys; and those who took these apprentices were almost always needy people."

"Those parties having got hold of the premium, were generally desirous to get rid of the children. Some of them had not sufficient means to make the children comfortable, and being persons low in life, they took little or no care of the children's morals. As the children came out of the workhouses, it was not difficult for their masters to find fault with them, and in many cases they either soon found some cause of complaint, which they represented to the magistrates and got the indentures cancelled, or they quarrelled with and abused the children so that they ran away. It was not an uncommon thing for these petty tradespeople to fail, or to go away and leave the children upon the parish. I have had a great many in the workhouse from such causes; even if they stopped the three years, they were generally obliged to come into the house; they could not get places. We did what we could for them. Some would be in the house for years, and for others we could get a place after a time."

"Many of the girls were thrown upon the town, and several of the boys turned out ill, some of them very bad."

"It being greatly the interest of the hundreds to get rid of the children, and the premium given with them being a great temptation to the petty tradesmen, the welfare of the children

was

was not altogether looked to; besides which, the directors and acting guardians were probably deceived by the story which the small shopkeepers told to get the children."

"As witness my hand this 8th day of June,
"*James Hatch.*"

Evidence of Mr. Plumb.

150. "I was overseer of the parish of St. Clements 39 years. In that time I have known a great many children apprenticed in the town of Ipswich from the Hundred-houses. A premium was given with these children generally of 10 *l.*, and often of 20 *l.* The small shopkeepers and other needy persons were very glad to get this premium, and took the apprentices for the sake of the money and not because they wanted the children. I have often told them, 'it is the money you want, and you do not care for the children.' They used to say, the children behaved very well for a few months or a year, and then they found great fault with them, and did all they could to get rid of them. I have been obliged to summon them before the magistrates for the ill usage of the children. One child sent well clothed to a baker was brought up to the town-hall in rags that would not have been picked off a dung-heap. The pauperism of the parish of St. Clements has been amazingly increased by this system. I am decidedly of opinion, that the pauperism of our parish has been at least doubled by this system alone. I think I could prove this from the books of the parish. My original accounts would soon show it."

"As witness my hand this 9th day of June 1836,
"*Curtis Plumb.*"

Evidence of John Kerrich, esq., of Geldestone.

151. "I have acted as magistrate in the hundreds of Loddon and Clavering for about 11 years. As director of the Incorporation for the relief of the poor of these Hundreds, and as magistrate, I have had frequent opportunities of witnessing the effects of the compulsory allotment of apprentices."

"I consider the whole system bad, being very expensive to the directors and acting guardians, and imposing very unequal burthens on the occupiers of land, while it does not tend either to the benefit of the master or the apprentice. The master very often does not want the apprentice, and considers him a burthen; the apprentice knows that his master is bound to maintain him, and does not care how he serves him."

"Many complaints have been made to me as a magistrate concerning the conduct of the apprentices, and likewise by the apprentices of the ill treatment received from their masters. It was very difficult to know how to act in these cases. The course we generally pursued was to give an admonition to the apprentice; notwithstanding which he was frequently brought before us again in a fortnight or three weeks. We were unwilling to send the apprentices to prison or to dismiss them. The master generally pressed for a dismissal. Some were sent to gaol, though not many; but in most of the cases so much ill feeling was engendered between the master and the apprentice, that we were obliged to cancel the indentures. The question of the premium which had previously been given with each child, and of the value of the clothes, was then very difficult to adjust."

"My information does not enable me to follow the child to its future destiny, but I cannot imagine he would easily find employment while so many were already out of work; besides which, the fact of his dismissal would operate against his obtaining another service."

"My conviction is, that if the whole system of compulsory apprenticeship were done away, and the law altered respecting the attainment of settlement by apprenticeship, voluntary contracts would be often entered into by the parents, which would be better both for the masters and the apprentices. The whole system would fall into a natural course, in which the child wanting a situation would find a master wanting a servant or apprentice, and their mutual interests would be promoted by the performance of their respective duties. The natural protectors of the children would take good care that the contract was observed, which under the former system it was impossible for the directors and acting guardians, or for the parish, or for the magistrates to enforce."

"Geldeston Hall, 13 June 1836. "*John Kerrich.*"

"Sir, Thurston, Loddon, Norfolk, 8 June 1836.

Evidence of Mr. Harry Webb.

152. "The many evils produced by apprenticing children from Heckingham poor-house have for some years excited my attention; and not being able to ascertain whether the subject has been at all entertained or considered by the Poor Law Commissioners, I am led to be bold in soliciting your attention to this important matter.

"The system of apprenticeship in the Hundreds of Loddon and Clavering has been equally injurious to the occupiers and the children. The children thus apprenticed would otherwise have been servants of the occupiers, in which case they would have performed their duties to their masters, whereas the apprentices have usually been idle, disorderly and vicious. This has been so much the case, that very many have not staid out their apprenticeship, their masters being obliged to apply to the magistrates for their authority to discharge them. On the part of the poor, many poor families quite able to maintain their children have sent them into the poor-house for the express purpose of being apprenticed. In connexion with other proofs which I have had, every Midsummer quarter an increased number of children has been admitted into the house; it being a standing rule that the children were required to be inmates of the house at least 15 months previous to their being bound out, which has always been at Michaelmas in each year. I consider this has been a separate feature of pauperism, and has been the means of pauperizing and prostituting

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more persons than any other system in these Hundreds. The girls, by reason of their independent impertinence and other misconduct above alluded to, do but rarely obtain a good character, so that whether discharged from their apprenticeship or not, they either return to the poor-house or become prostitutes. The latter course is taken in the case of Harriet Dunnet, who was discharged from her apprenticeship last summer. She is now a common prostitute, and I have reason to think the magistrates are fully aware of the immoral conduct of girls thus thrown into temptation, as they are ever wishing to punish by imprisonment rather than discharge an apprentice; nor do I believe they have ever done it, unless the cases were notorious. With respect to the boys, they have inherited the like impertinence which the girls have shown, with fixed and determined idle habits, which I attribute in a great measure to the want of being initiated into agricultural labour with their respective fathers, and which they altogether lose in a workhouse. I fear you will think me troublesome, but I hope to be excused, as I wish to call your attention to one or two other evils arising out of this apprenticeship system; viz. I have known children taken away from employment in which they earned sufficient wages, in order that they might be apprenticed. I remember particularly the case of a boy, Moss, who was in Sir William Beauchamp Procter's employment, and whom his parents took away to apprentice him, though he was getting good and sufficient wages. On Monday week, I proved that a woman would not, after application, receive an admittance into Heckingham house for two of her children, because I told her I did not think the Poor Law Commissioners would allow the pernicious system of apprenticing childern to be continued. I hope I may be pardoned for presuming to entertain or prejudge any opinion which the Poor Law Commissioners may have formed on this matter, but I have thought the Poor Law Amendment Act has this feature about it; viz. a full and determined purpose to prevent fraud; to establish on the wreck of former misgovernment a good moral principle in the poorer classes, and to benefit the public in general; to accomplish which, I think it impossible to the fullest extent that may be, unless the apprenticeship system be discontinued, or permitted to exist only in extreme and necessitous cases; therefore I felt certain the Commissioners, with such laudable objects in view, could not have wholly overlooked an inlet into so much vice and poverty on the part of the poor, and expense to the occupiers, which the apprenticeship system has led to in these Hundreds."

"I must beg to conclude my remarks, by giving you a few items of cost which this apprenticeship system is to the occupiers, which will give you a further proof how noxious the system is which I am complaining of, and will show you the great objection and sacrifice of money occupiers have to parish apprentices. And here I beg to state a premium is universally given in all the parishes throughout these Hundreds. In this parish it has varied from 9*l.* to 15*l.* The period of apprenticeship has never exceeded three years, but of late it has been but two years. In an adjacent parish, Berghapton, where the population is about 240 persons, the occupiers subscribed 48*l.* last Michaelmas for their apprentices; and it is a palpable fact, that the father of each child was able-bodied, and in good and constant employment. Moreover the three united families amounted only to 13 children. At Michaelmas 1834 there was subscribed in the same parish 26*l.* or 27*l.* for one apprentice. These several sums, with 15 months' board and clothing in the poorhouse, have to be expended, besides the making out of indentures, &c. &c. You will perceive the amount is considerable, the period of apprenticeship short, the inhabitants few, and this serious amount is extracted from the pockets of the suffering farmers, with scarcely a glimmer of satisfaction arising out of so heavy an outlay, but have frequently to contend with insult from the paupers, by being told 'they shall have another child to apprentice another year.' A man by the name of Etteridge has often boasted to the effect stated."

"I am, Sir, your obedient humble servant,

"Dr. Kay, *Harry Webb*, Farmer."

"Assistant Poor Law Commissioner."

Evidence of Mr. Foreman.

153. "It was almost the universal practice in the Blything hundred for poor persons to send their children into the Hundred house to be bound out; as soon as the child came to a certain age they used to claim it as a sort of right; they preferred this system to the trouble of finding places for their children; they were then sure that their children would be clothed and supported for four or five years without any trouble or expense on their part; they shifted the trouble and responsibility of their family off their own shoulders on to those of other persons so long as this system prevailed. Just previous to the period of the annual binding a great increase of the number of children of the age to be bound out occurred in the house. The disposition of the parents to rely on the parish for assistance was evidently increased by this system, and the character of the children was not at all improved, they in their turn became paupers. I have frequently known them apply for relief as soon as their apprenticeship was over, marry soon afterwards, and come into the house with their wives."

"I have heard complaints of the bad conduct of at least one-half of the children bound out. The apprenticeship, in the majority of instances, did not make the children better acquainted with their trade or calling, or increase their disposition to labour, but quite the contrary; in many cases I have known them quite reckless. The disinclination of the occupiers to receive them was extreme; frequent applications and memorials were conveyed to the board against the allotments. The irritation occasioned by this compulsory system of binding became so great, that the board adopted the plan of giving an annual premium with the children; the dissatisfaction was somewhat allayed for a time by this concession; but the system did not work well, and the same feelings of discontent recurred."

"As witness my hand this 10th day of June 1836,

"*Dan. Forman.*"

"I have

Evidence of Mr. Carr, of Halesworth.

"I have been overseer of the parish of Halesworth, eight years. When I came into office, finding a great many people out of work, and incumbered with large families, I considered it my duty to clear their families as much as possible by apprenticing the children. In this way 30 children have been apprenticed in this period in the parish of Halesworth. My experience of the effects of apprenticeship has led me to change my opinion concerning this system. Not more than a quarter of the children have turned out as we could have desired, and half of them have become profligate or reckless, and the other quarter have remained quite stationary, threatening the parish with dependence. This system was much complained of by the rate payers; 80 *l.* fines were paid for the refusal of apprentices in this period. It was an extreme inconvenience to some of the small rate-payers to take the children, because they had no need of their services; were scarcely able to support them, and too poor to pay the fine. Another bad effect was, the influence of this system on the minds of the parents; they neglected to provide for their children, and threw the burden on the parish, under the impression that they had a right to do so. The parents insolently demanded as a right, what we imagined they ought to have received as a boon, and the children were insolent and disobedient to their masters, being told by their parents that their masters could not get rid of them without a vexatious process before the magistrates. Even then a riddance could not be had of this nuisance, unless theft or some other similarly gross offence could be proved; simple disobedience and uselessness were not sufficient to obtain the magistrates' consent to the cancelling of the indentures. Formerly it had been necessary that the children should be 12 months in the house, before they were bound out. In order to avoid the expense of maintaining the children for so long a period within the house, the directors and acting guardians, in 1829, reduced the time to six months. This change occasioned such an increase in the number of children sent into the workhouse to be apprenticed, that it was found necessary, in 1834, again to increase the period during which the children were required to be in the house, to 12 months. My impression is, that in the eight years during which I have been in office, this system has occasioned a clear loss to the parish of at least 600 *l.*, besides inflicting great injury on the morals of the parents and children."

"As witness my hand this 11th day of June 1836,

"*Isaac Carr.*"

General conclusions from foregoing facts.

154. From the preceding facts I am inclined to deduce the following general conclusions. The maintenance, clothing, lodging and training in a useful calling, of the children of the poor, is a responsibility naturally devolving on the parents, with which it is mischievous to interfere.

155. The transference of this responsibility from the parents to the public encourages premature and improvident marriages, tends to diminish the natural affections of parents and children, by making the parents cease to be the sources of the well-being of their offspring, and increases the tendency of the poor to rely upon the public for the support of their families, rather than to resort to their own exertions.

156. The apprentice system has been an injury to the children whom it was intended to benefit, since the care which an Incorporation can take of the comfort and improvement of its apprentices is less than a parent would naturally exercise over the well-being of his child. The children placed under the guardianship of the public have descended to a lower moral and social condition than would have been their lot, if the parents had performed their natural duties.

To substitute the guardianship of the public for the guardianship of parents is therefore mischievous, and can only be resorted to when the parental guardianship is brought to an end; as for example, when on the death of one parent, the other is an idiot or lunatic, or is convicted of some offence against the laws, depriving him of liberty for a series of years; or is transported beyond the seas; or has absconded, and cannot be found, and the family are consequently chargeable to the parish; or when both parents are thus circumstanced, provided there be no other relatives liable under the 43d of Elizabeth to provide for the support and education of the children, in which case, the guardians of the poor are bound to enforce the performance of the legal duties of such relatives towards the children.

157. The public becomes the guardian of orphans who have no relatives liable to provide for their maintenance and instruction.

158. I beg to suggest that the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales require an annual return of the names and various circumstances relating to the condition of all children included in the above-mentioned classes, who are chargeable to any parish or Union.

That they should require that children whose natural guardians are totally incapacitated from making provision for their maintenance and instruction, be put to some useful occupation, by the mode of hiring and service, without premium.

159. In ordering this provision, while it is kept in view that orphans or the children of idiots, felons, convicts, and other persons whose natural guardianship is at an end, ought not to be provided with maintenance and education in such a way as to render their lot superior to that which a labourer can obtain for his offspring by his independent industry, providence and care, it should be remembered that the guardians of the poor have assumed responsibilities respecting the children put to labour by them resembling those of the parent. Means should therefore be systematically taken to procure exact and minute periodical reports concerning the conduct of the children, their comfort, and progress in their calling; and likewise by visitations made within stated periods to ensure that attention on the part of the masters essential to the well-being of the children.

160. These reports should be classified, and transmitted quarterly to the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, who would thus be enabled to bring the whole of the system under their inspection.

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161. Moreover, in order to ensure the application of correct principles to the hiring of poor children it should be required, that the case of each child proposed to be hired should be submitted to the Poor Law Commissioners for their approval. When a situation is found for a child, various particulars relative to the circumstances of the hiring should be transmitted, and the approval of the Commissioners obtained.

The Plans adopted for the Administration of Medical Relief to the Poor in the Counties of Suffolk and Norfolk.

New arrangements for the administration of relief by medicine.

Nature of old parochial contracts.

162. The provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act rendered necessary new arrangements for the administration of relief by medicine. The parochial authorities had ensured this form of relief by means of contracts for attendance on the sick poor, but they exercised no discretion concerning the persons who were entitled to be attended at the expense of the parish. No effort was made to restrain the tendency to undue reliance on gratuitous aid, and practically any of the labourers who thought fit to apply for the assistance of the parochial surgeon, did so by calling at his house, and requiring his services, with as little hesitation—so far had custom established the right—as if they had intended to reward him for his professional skill and care. In the matter of relief by medicine, almost all the rural labourers were paupers; by the parochial contract the medical profession subjected themselves to the provision of medical aid for the entire labouring population.

Contracts in incorporated hundreds.

163. In some of the Incorporated hundreds bye-laws and regulations had been adopted to restrain this system, which rules for that purpose rendered it necessary that an order should be obtained from the directors and acting guardians, or from the overseers. Practically this regulation was enforced with such extreme laxity as to be valueless.

Present state of the law relative to medical relief.

164. The Poor Law Amendment Act subjects each act of relief to the discretion of the board of guardians in ordinary cases; but in cases of emergency, requiring relief by medicine, authority is given to overseers and churchwardens, and to justices of the peace, to give an order for medical attendance both in the cases of parishioners and non-parishioners. Such cases are to be reported to the next meeting of the board of guardians, in order that the board may exercise its discretion as to the continuance or discontinuance of the assistance of their medical officer in each case. As far as the relieving officer is concerned, the Commissioners order that "as soon as he shall have had notice of the sickness of, or of any injury received by any pauper, in any of the parishes or places for which he may be appointed to act, he shall notify the fact to the medical officer."

Persons who are to receive relief by medicine under the union contracts.

165. The persons who are to receive relief by medicine under the Union contract cannot be so determined so as to be arranged in a class, and their numbers will, under a correct method of administration, constantly diminish. The persons who are to receive this form of relief can only be determined by special acts of discretion, in ordinary cases exercised by the board of guardians, and in extraordinary cases by the churchwardens, overseers and justices of the peace. It is evident, therefore, that relief by medicine may be extended to those who are not receiving relief by money or relief by flour.

Relief by medicine, like every other form of out-door relief, is gradually to be restrained.

166. The object of the Poor Law Amendment Act is to diminish the dependence of the poorer classes on parochial aid, and by the gradual pressure of necessity to urge and to teach them to support themselves. By supposing relief by medicine to be a form of parochial aid exempted from the operation of the statute, humane men have fallen into serious errors, which have tended in some degree to embarrass the operations of boards of guardians. A little reflection would have convinced them that the reliance of the entire population on parochial aid for medical relief, is a form of pauperism, which is the more dangerous, since it habituates the poor to dependence, under circumstances which cloak the tendencies of the system. In the rural districts, the parochial fund supplies the place of the overgrown and abused charities of cities, with this difference, that the mischief is consummated in the rural parishes, whereas it is only in progress in the towns. Some statistical facts which I some time ago collected in some of the largest towns in England, may serve to show how facile and sudden is the descent of the population to a state of abject dependence, even in communities where the industrious and frugal enjoy sufficient resources, and hence to draw the conclusion that dependence is no proof of the destitution of individuals or classes.

Tendency to increase of dependence where charitable aid is indiscriminately administered.

167. For example, the wealth of Manchester is daily on the increase, and the wages of the population are at this period such, as with frugality and forethought, would enable them to avoid reliance on charity, yet the records of the Lying-in charity of that town prove, that dependence on charitable aid for medical attendance at the period of childbirth, has increased in a much more rapid ratio than the population, and has spread to the most mischievous extent.

Number of persons relieved by charities in large towns increases more rapidly than the population.

168. In 1801 the number of patients relieved by the Lying-in charity was 1,400; in 1830 it was 4,900, or three and a half times more in the latter period than in the former. In 1801, the population was 92,000: in 1832 (two years later than the account given of the Charity) it was 230,000, or the population was two and a half times greater in the same period. The tendency to reliance on charitable assistance in the period of childbirth had, therefore, increased at a more rapid rate than the population, or nearly as the numbers seven and five.

Further exemplification.

169. The population of Manchester and its adjacent townships, Ardwick, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, Hulme, Salford, Pendleton and Cheetham, was in 1821, 157,751, and it had augmented in 1831 to 230,989. The number of patients relieved by the medical charities in 1821 was 12,900, or rather more than one-twelfth of the population. In 1831, the number of persons who had accepted medical aid from these charities, was 40,151, having increased

creased to more than one-sixth of the population, including all persons above the necessity of working with their hands for subsistence. If public opinion interposed no check to the increase of this form of reliance, it would probably continue to increase in future years in a ratio similar to that observed in the past. The present annual expenditure of about 18,000 *l.* would, under such circumstances, soon be doubled.

170. A similar tendency to an increase in the number of persons relieved by the medical charities at a more rapid rate than is required by the expansion of the population, is exhibited in the towns of Liverpool, Leeds and Birmingham.

The interference of the Legislature wise.

171. In this form of relief, as in every other, undiscriminating gratuitous aid undermines independence of the poor, and increases the number of those who cease to rely on their own resources, and resort to the proffered assistance of the parish or the public. This principle being established, the Legislature is justified in having required that boards of guardians, parochial officers and magistrates should, in their several spheres of action, use their discretion in the administration of relief by medicine in such a manner as to increase the independence of the poorer classes.

Disallowance of out-door medical relief must be gradual, but is to be accomplished, and this result may be attained without much difficulty.

172. The gradual disallowance of out-door medical relief may require the exercise of greater prudence than the removal of other forms of out-door relief; but experience and reason alike prove, that this form of dependence is unnecessary and injurious. That it is unnecessary, is proved by the speedy substitution of independent medical clubs for the parochial contracts, wherever the Poor Law Amendment Act has been a certain period in operation, showing how fertile the population is in resources, when its energies are not impaired by the luckless interference of ill administered relief. The injury inflicted on the moral condition of the population is shown by the tendency which the system has to a rapid increase, even among a population possessed of sufficient resources, and I am well convinced that the value of the assistance which the labourer can procure by means of the parochial contract, is not superior to that which he would derive as the member of an independent medical club.

Results obtained in the Cosford union, Suffolk.

173. In the Cosford Union, Suffolk, an independent medical club has been established in every parish in the Union. The clubs, generally, include the entire labouring population. Under the old system, the total number of orders which would have been issued "for medical relief in this Union," in the spring quarter of March, April and May, among a population of upwards of 17,900 persons, could not have been much less than 1,000, or 100 in each month, to each medical officer. During these three months, under the new system, only 68 medical orders have been issued by the board of guardians, and in the month of May, only 12 orders were given in the entire Union.

Remuneration of medical officers.

174. The salaries of the medical officers in this Union are lower than in any other Union in the county of Suffolk. They amount to 240 *l.* per annum. For a similar population, 300 *l.* per annum has usually been awarded. The amount of duty performed for this salary in the Cosford Union, is, as we have seen, sufficiently moderate. The amount of remuneration derived from the medical clubs, was stated to me by Mr. Plum, the clerk of the Union, (after an inquiry conducted at my request by the relieving officer), to be as follows:

Sums subscribed to the independent medical clubs.

175. Amount of subscriptions to the independent medical clubs in the Cosford Union, Suffolk.

	£.	s.	d.
Brettenham	10	10	–
Brent Eleigh	6	8	–
Cockfield	10	–	–
Hitcham	42	–	–
Kettlebaston	3	–	–
Lavenham	5	–	–
Preston	19	–	–
Thorpe Morieux	12	–	–
Aldham	8	16	2
Whatfield	14	–	–
(1) Boxford			
Chellesworth	7	7	–
(1) Groton		—	
(1) Edwardstone		—	
(1) Hadleigh Hamlet	16	15	4
Kersey	15	–	–
Lindsey	9	16	10
Milden and Monks Eleigh	10	16	8
Polstead	6	–	–
Semer	10	–	–
Bildestone	13	–	–
Elmsett	11	1	–
(2) Hadleigh	81	1	6
Layham	13	10	10
Naughton and Nedging	13	–	–
Whattisham	8	13	6
	£ 351	16	10

(1) These four parishes are united in one club.

(2) In this club a certain sum is paid to the medical gentlemen for their assistance, and the remainder to a benevolent society, for the aid of the sick in other respects. The medical officers receive 60 *l.*

Low rates of payment to clubs to be avoided.

176. I observe that the terms on which the medical gentlemen have consented to attend the poor in the clubs of this Union, are lower than what has been proposed elsewhere, and I cannot deem it desirable that, by too low a rate of payment, one form of assistance should be substituted for another, and that the dependence of the poor should thus be disguised.

Monies paid for medical service in Norfolk and Suffolk.

177. The amount of monies voted for the medical service of the various Unions in Suffolk and Norfolk (including two or three districts, the organization of which is not quite completed, but in which the salaries are calculated at the average rate of payment), will be 10,000 *l.* per annum, without the city of Norwich. If it be deemed right to presume that the amount obtained from the independent medical clubs, now in process of formation, may, by the exertions of the medical officers, be brought to bear a proportion to the salaries voted by the boards of guardians, similar to that observed in the Cosford Union, the total sum derived from these two sources would be 23,792 *l.* per annum, for the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk. The sum derived from the medical clubs in the Cosford Union is much less than that which these institutions will yield in many other districts.

Monies which may be had by creating independent medical clubs.

Evidence of George Scott, relieving officer of Cosford union.

178. The following is the evidence of Mr. George Scott, the indefatigable relieving officer of one of the districts of that Union. "There is an independent medical club in every parish in my district, and each club generally includes all the poor of the parish. I have not been asked for more than twenty medical orders in the last three months. So that it may be said the poor have provided medical assistance for themselves. I am sure the surgeons are well satisfied with this arrangement, and the poor are decidedly much better attended as members of the independent medical clubs, than they were under the old parochial contracts. The poor are pleased with the change; they now go to their surgeon as a matter of right whenever they are ill."

Letter from Rev. S. Cole, of Brettenham.

179. The following extract from a letter from the Rev. Samuel Cole of Brettenham, in the same Union, may serve to show how these clubs are regarded by intelligent and humane gentlemen in the district.

"The Poor Law Amendment Act is still at work. It has given rise to many medical clubs in the parishes of this Union, and the surgeons are now better paid than under the late corruption or corporation. I am treasurer or manager of such a club in my parish, the subscription to which will enable me to double the former salary of the surgeon, and raise a fund over and above for necessaries to sick males, and lying-in women. I hope the Commissioners in London will relieve us of payment to their appointed surgeon. Our relieving officer, who is one of the best of his profession, says the club should be called the Independent Medical Club."

Progress of independent medical clubs.

180. In the Woodbridge Union in the same county, 30 parishes have established medical clubs. They are rapidly spreading in the Stow Union, especially round Stowmarket, and in others of the Suffolk Unions. In Norfolk the medical gentlemen have evinced an earnest desire to assist the boards of guardians in all their operations, and they are now zealously engaged in the formation of independent medical clubs, which appear likely, with their valuable aid, to spread throughout the entire extent of most of the Unions. I take this opportunity of expressing my own grateful acknowledgments for the cordial assistance which has thus been given to my proceedings in this county, by the professional gentlemen to whom I have had the pleasure to be introduced, as medical officers of the various Unions.

181. In this way the operation of the law tends to increase the virtuous independence of the poorer classes.

Satisfaction of respectable medical practitioners.

182. I am happy to say that these arrangements have generally procured the cordial approbation of many of the most enlightened members of the medical profession, and when they have failed to obtain that sanction in the earlier stages, experience of the beneficial effects flowing from the change has produced conviction in the minds of many respectable practitioners. If there remain any members of this learned and humane profession who still refuse their approbation to the measure, I am not without hopes that notwithstanding any temporary inconvenience they may have sustained, they will ere long be constrained to confess the advantages resulting from these operations.

Evidence.

183. From several depositions made to me by most respectable medical gentlemen on this subject, I select the following from Mr. Bree of Stow Market.

Evidence of Mr. Bree.

"Mr. Bree.—You are a medical officer of the Stow Union?—Yes, of the Rattlesden district.

"Were you surgeon of any parishes of the lately Incorporated hundred of Stow?—Yes, I had a third of the hundred.

"Is your present position pleasant to you?—Yes, quite so. I prefer being surgeon to the New Union on the terms offered by the board of guardians, to my position as surgeon of the Incorporation, with the remuneration given by the board of directors and acting guardians.

"What is the cause of the preference you give to the new contract?—I may state as a principal cause of my preference, that I am not imposed upon, by the necessity of attending those who had no real need of relief, against which evil we had previously no protection. In consequence of which, the number of poor persons whom I attend as medical officer of the Union is reduced. On this account, I consider the amount of remuneration under the new contract equivalent, if not superior, to what I obtained under the old. Though I cannot conceive that some of the poor will not always require parochial medical assistance, I clearly perceive that the tendency of the new system being to diminish the dependence of the poor, it must be consistent with the interests of the medical profession.

"Is

" Is there any other reason for the preference which you give to your present position?—Yes, I prefer being the means of doing general good, by teaching the poor to be independent, and enabling them to establish societies, in which, by small periodical payments, they have the advantage of choosing their medical attendant, and of thus securing to themselves efficient medical assistance.

" Then, do you consider the medical attendance on the poor will be more efficient in the medical clubs than under the old contracts?—I do. So long as the poor are enabled to keep up their payments to the medical clubs, and thus have the choice of their medical attendant, they will ensure more efficient medical assistance.

" Do you think these clubs will succeed?—I have no doubt of it.

" Do you think the poor are anxious for these clubs?—Certainly, and more particularly those who have now no legal claim to relief from the Union, and who not being able to pay ordinary medical fees, are able and willing to subscribe to these societies.

" Do these clubs obtain the approbation of the more wealthy inhabitants?—Yes, they do so universally, and we have received the most flattering encouragement in the establishment of a club at Stowmarket, which is intended to include the Hundred, which comprises 14 parishes."

Progress of new measures in Suffolk and Norfolk.

184. In the earlier portion of this report the general condition of the administration of relief to the poor in the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk, previously to the interference of the Commissioners, has been described. The operations of the Commission in these two counties were impeded by the necessity of obtaining the consent of two thirds of the guardians of the Incorporated Hundreds, and of the numerous Unions under Gilbert's Act, to the dissolution of these Unions and Incorporations. As soon as this consent was obtained, new Unions, comprising a large additional number of parishes, were declared. The size of these Unions was chiefly determined by the conviction that, in the larger Unions, the operation of the general principles of the law would be more steady and uniform; and also by the capacity of the Hundred Houses of industry, which was so great as to render it difficult to adapt the extent of the Union to the capacity of the House of industry. The Unions in the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk usually contain about 40 parishes, and 20,000 inhabitants. After the first general review of the cases of pauperism had been completed, I have not found that the extent of the largest of these Unions has been the source of any embarrassment to the boards of guardians, and as soon as the workhouse test is brought into operation, I am well convinced that the comparative progress of the various Unions will be more closely in conformity with general principles, and therefore more successful, almost in the direct ratio of their size.

Dissolution of incorporations.

Size of new unions.

185. One of the Norfolk Unions comprises 60 parishes, and about 30,000 inhabitants; and I have little doubt that this Union will be distinguished by the success of its operations, a success which it appears to me the persevering activity of the guardians and the zealous co-operation of the magistrates of the district must ensure.

Rate of reduction of expenditure.

186. The estimated reduction of expenditure in the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk is exhibited in the statistics derived from the Quarterly Abstracts of the various Unions, and which returns have been classified under the direction of the Poor Law Commissioners. The rate of reduction cannot at this period be estimated at much less than 40 per cent. of the average expenditure throughout the two counties, and in the county of Suffolk it probably exceeds that rate.

Rate of reduction in particular unions.

187. Having personally conducted the audit of most of the Suffolk Unions, in the quarter ending the 25th December 1835, I took that opportunity to compare the rate of expenditure in the same quarter of the preceding year. The greater part of the Suffolk Unions had only commenced operations during this quarter; notwithstanding which circumstance, I found that a remarkable reduction had already been procured. By this examination, I am led to entertain the confident expectation that in the first clear year from the commencement of the operations, the reduction in the Cosford Union will not fall short of 10,000 *l.* in an average expenditure of 19,000 *l.* The averages of the Bosmere and Claydon Union are 14,306 *l.* and I entertain the expectation that the expenses of the first clear year's operations, in the matter of the relief of the poor, will not much exceed 6,000 *l.* in this Union.

Cosford union.

188. I subjoin the comparative statement of the expenditure during the first quarter's operations in the Cosford Union, under the Poor Law Amendment Act, and of the expenditure in each of the parishes during the corresponding quarter of the preceding year.

189. Whilst this report was in preparation, Mr. Plum, the clerk of the Cosford Union, obtained from as many of the parishes as possible, a comparative statement of the expenditure in corresponding weeks of the month of June last year and this year. I have annexed this statement to that above alluded to.

COSFORD UNION.

PARISHES.	Population.	Average, March 1835.	Direct Relief to Michaelmas 1834.	Direct Relief to Michaelmas 1835. Parochial Out-Relief.	Out-Relief by Relieving Officers.	In-Maintenance.	TOTAL.	Decrease in Actual Relief Quarter ending Michaelmas 1835.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Aldham	318	395	88 3 8	- - -	31 5 8	11 6 2	42 11 10	45 11 10
Bildestone	836	588	73 18 6	- - -	50 19 10	16 2 –	67 1 10	6 16 8
Brettenham	366	471	75 6 11	2 7 8	31 16 3	16 4 7	50 8 6	24 18 5
Brent Eleigh	290	314	44 14 8	- - -	20 12 10¼	- - -	20 12 10½	24 1 9½
Boxford	874	889	131 7 4	3 11 –	87 4 4	- - -	90 15 4	40 12 –
Chellesworth	346	137	38 12 3	- - -	17 13 –	– – 5	17 13 5	20 18 10
Cockfield	1,023	980	267 13 10	- - -	91 17 5	1 5 10	93 3 3	174 10 7
Elmsett	437	632	145 8 11	- - -	59 10 1	40 17 –	100 7 1	45 1 10
Edwardstone	503	585	118 7 7	- - -	51 17 7	- - -	51 17 7	66 10 –
Groton	577	488	98 11 3	- - -	42 16 6½	– 8 2	43 4 8½	55 6 6½
Hitcham	1,022	1,407	226 8 7	- - -	154 1 6½	22 18 4	176 19 10½	49 8 8½
Hadleigh	3,425	3,720	945 – 1	- - -	226 8 4	5 17 10	232 6 2	712 13 11
Hadleigh Hamlet	214	102	11 11 9	- - -	9 10 8	- - -	9 10 8	2 1 1
Kersey	700	671	172 9 10	- - -	66 11 4	33 14 8	100 6 –	72 3 10
Kettlebaston	202	188	38 16 9	- - -	17 – 7	19 1 7	36 2 2	2 14 7
Layham	552	654	117 3 5	- - -	66 3 9	18 4 9	84 8 6	32 14 11
Lindsey	250	532	110 19 6	- - -	44 13 2	12 18 6	57 11 8	53 7 10
Lavenham	2,107	1,889	502 7 1	- - -	256 15 5	10 1 7	266 17 –	235 10 1
Monks Eleigh	733	575	130 16 5	- - -	76 5 3	2 6 7	78 11 10	52 4 7
Milden	177	174	37 19 10	- - -	26 13 11	- - -	26 13 11	11 5 11
Naughton	187	227	44 7 3	- - -	22 8 5	1 16 3	24 4 8	20 2 7
Nedging	214	116	12 16 –	- - -	9 7 3	- - -	9 7 3	3 8 9
Polstead	960	1,029	227 11 9	- - -	84 2 7½	39 13 8	123 16 3½	103 15 5½
Preston	321	361	95 14 4	- - -	36 4 1	- - -	36 4 1	59 10 3
Semer	275	507	116 12 –	- - -	58 18 4	9 9 11	68 8 3	48 3 9
Thorpe Morieux	412	429	88 10 4	- - -	38 6 7	3 9 5	41 16 –	46 14 4
Wattisham	202	398	51 14 2	- - -	30 15 4	- - -	30 15 4	20 18 10
Whatfield	377	765	194 16 9	- - -	60 7 2	20 18 8	81 5 10	113 10 11
	17,900	19,223	4,298 – 9				£.	2,144 18 10

	Out-Relief, First Week in June 1835.	Out-Relief, First Week in June 1836.	DECREASE, One Week of Summer Quarter.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Aldham	3 12 –	2 3 10	1 8 2
Bildestone	4 12 3	3 5 4¾	1 6 10¼
Elmsett	11 14 3	3 2 7	8 11 8
Hadleigh	32 6 5½	13 19 9	18 6 8½
Layham	9 6 8	2 17 6	6 9 2
Naughton	3 14 –	1 4 8¼	2 9 3¾
Nedging	– 15 6	– 15 4½	– – 1½
Wattisham	4 1 –	– 19 10	3 1 2
Whatfield	11 18 6	2 5 11½	9 12 6½
Boxford	14 11 10½	3 17 4	10 14 6½
Chellsworth	2 2 6	1 6 3	– 16 3
Edwardstone	8 15 1	2 14 1	6 1 –
Groton	5 12 –	2 14 –	2 18 –
Hadleigh Hamlet	1 10 –	– 2 2	1 7 10
Kersey	cannot be ascertained.		
Lindsey	8 6 7	1 15 8	6 10 11
Milden	3 3 –¾	1 – 10	2 2 2¾
Monks Eleigh	10 15 6	3 – 3	7 15 3
Polstead	11 2 9	4 17 7	6 5 2
Semer	8 6 –	3 13 7	4 12 5
£.	156 5 11¾	55 16 8	100 9 3¾

	Quarter ending the 24th June 1835.	Quarter ending the 24th June 1836.	DECREASE, One Quarter.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Brettenham	122 17 4½	29 3 2½	93 14 2
Brent Eleigh	44 12 3½	17 6 6	27 5 9½
Cockfield	248 11 2	65 11 6½	182 19 7½
Hitcham	305 12 3½	115 6 6½	190 5 9
Kettlebaston	60 15 1¼	9 8 6¾	51 6 6½
Lavenham	358 – 6	215 11 11½	142 8 6½
Preston	64 1 9	35 4 –½	28 17 8½
Thorpe Morieux	66 14 4	24 1 10	42 12 6
£.	1,271 4 9¾	511 14 2¼	759 10 7½

190. These

190. These reductions in the expenditure for the relief of the poor necessarily form the most tangible evidence of the advantages obtained by the operation of the law. The influence of this reduction may be appreciated by this consideration, that these monies have been taken out of the hands of the overseer, and have been put into the hands of the occupier. They were applied by the overseer as an allowance for the support of the unemployed; they were monies expended without return, but paid to men who were thus placed in an almost hostile position to the rest of society, who performed no service for the maintenance thus provided; who took the allowance as a right to be extorted by threats or violence, from an unwilling and oppressive authority; who, instead of returning homage and fealty for support, repaid the pernicious gift by idleness, disrespect, disorder, intimidation, incendiarism and open violence.

191. These monies are put into the hands of the farmer, to be employed in the restoration of the labour contract. They are now paid for service done. A return will be derived for the monies thus expended, in the more careful tillage of the soil, and more abundant harvests. The means for the maintenance of the people will thus be increased. Meanwhile, social order will be secured by the necessity which will compel every labourer to perform his duties to his master, in order that he may thus procure the continuance of his engagement, and enjoy the rewards of industry.

192. The former system had so weakened the cohesion of the elements of society, by destroying the connection between the labourer and his employer, that the social structure must have lapsed into ruin if it had not been upheld by external force. The present system will ensure the integrity of the social fabric by restoring that connexion which is the chief cement of the mass.

193. Independently of these necessary consequences of the change, and of the remarkable influence which it has exerted in the improvement of the manners and morals of the poorer classes, the reduction of expenditure would by no means be worthy of being regarded as an unequivocal advantage.

194. No national crime could have been greater than that these monies, thus saved, should have been the mere accumulation of pittances wrung from the miserable and despairing poor.

195. How great is the advantage of the change now in progress, as respects the improvement of the moral and social condition of the poorer classes, may be in some degree estimated from the following evidence from the Cosford and Bosmere and Claydon Unions, Suffolk, where the reductions have been most extensive.

" My dear Sir, Whatfield, 14 June 1836.

196. " This morning I propounded to our board of guardians the question of the present condition of our labouring population, as compared with that which existed before the formation of the Union under the Poor Law Commissioners, and I subjoin a transcript of the unanimous opinion of the guardians then present, very nearly in the identical words which were used. I do not attach the names of the persons who originated the different observations, because universal assent immediately adopted them as the true opinions of the board; and I have admitted no other in this my report to you.

The paupers, instead of using violent and abusive language towards those by whom relie is administered, as heretofore, have become civil and well-behaved.

The labourers are now more desirous to obtain work, more obliging and more attentive to the interests of their employers. Not half the money is spent in public-houses and beer-houses which was formerly dissipated there, even by the most respectable labourers, who under the old system of relief seldom thought of laying up anything for rent. Their periodical meetings for the purpose of drinking together once or twice a week are, in a great measure, discontinued.

At present the number of early marriages and cases of bastardy does not appear to be generally much diminished. At Lavenham the marriages within the last year have exceeded considerably the average of the last five years. On the subject of bastardy an evident change of feeling for the better has, however, taken place, both in the minds of young women and of their parents, from which very great improvement may be expected.

It can hardly be hoped that such men as have formerly lived in vicious and dishonest practices, can be reclaimed to habits of honest industry without the aid of a more efficient police than is now presented by the body of village constables. The withdrawal of parish relief from the ill-disposed has, it is feared, supplied to many of them a plausible pretext for following bad courses perhaps to a greater extent than formerly.

The beer-houses are much more orderly and quiet than they used to be, and although the number of them is not materially diminished, there is good reason to believe that many keepers of such houses make very small returns now, compared with what they made before the formation of the Union. It is quite certain that, generally speaking, labourers who formerly received relief in aid of wages, have become so much more frugal and provident that they appear to enjoy greater comfort with their present earnings only, although reduced by the whole amount of their former parochial allowance.

The diminution of the number of labourers by migration through the agency of the Poor Law Commissioners and otherwise, together with the demand for labour likely to arise in the course of the ensuing summer from rail-roads and other public works, will, it is confidently expected, operate very favourably upon the condition of the labouring population. Within a few months the guardians hope to see the labourers of the Union in a condition to

Appendix (B.)

No. 1.
Report of
J. Phillips Kay, Esq.
M.D.

demand adequate wages and full employment; a state of things to which they are glad to be able to testify that the labourers themselves are looking forward with satisfaction.

Ever yours truly,

To Dr. Kay. *Frederick Calvert.*"

197. The following evidence was given by George Scott, relieving officer of the northern district of the Cosford Union.—Has there been any improvement in wages in your district?—Yes; in several of the parishes the farmers have raised the daily wages of labouring men 1*s.* per week, and in some instances more.

To what do you attribute this rise in wages?—In the first place, the men are much better disposed to work, and when at work are far more desirous to please their employers; on this account their labour is more valuable. Another reason, I should think, is, that the farmers believe that if they do not employ their men they will have to pay more for their maintenance in the workhouse than the amount of their weekly wages. I do not think there is much apprehension as yet that the men will migrate; but if there was any public work in the county, or within a moderate distance, then I am satisfied wages would materially advance. By one means or other, I have no doubt whatever that wages must gradually rise. I am well aware that the farmers know that wages are about to rise considerably; and those who are not well informed, are apprehensive that they will have to pay more for their labour soon. The better informed and more substantial farmers rejoice at this change, which the little occupiers somewhat dread, because they do not enter into the system sufficiently to see the benefits that will be derived from it.

What is the present condition of the poor in your district?—The poor in my district are become more provident than they were, their moral character is improved, they are more employed, and they receive better wages. I know many instances of men who seldom did a day's work, who are now most anxious to retain their situations, and if casually out of work, would use the utmost exertions to obtain employment. In the majority of cottages in my district there is more food at home for the consumption of the family than at any previous period in my recollection.

How do you account for that?—I know several families in my district which were chiefly fed on potatoes before this change, but where the father now having got work, the food of the family is very much improved. I do not attribute this change in the families of which I speak to habits of drunkenness having been corrected, but to the circumstance that they value more, and use more frugally and carefully, the earnings which they get by labour, than they did the allowance they obtained from the overseer.

Are the beer shops as much frequented as heretofore?—Oh no; that is becoming a very bad business; I think the Legislature will never want to repeal the Act; I think it will die a natural death. The beer shopkeepers do not approve of the new poor laws any more than they would of an Act to put down beer-houses. I have heard some of them say, they should soon have to come to me for relief.

Can you give me any instance in which an apparent surplus population has been dispersed?—In the street of Lavenham there used to be 50 or 60 unemployed men at this season; I think I have known very near 100 out of work in some part of the year. There is no person out of work in Lavenham now. I do not know what has become of the men; they are evidently gone, but whither I cannot tell. Many of them have found work among the farmers in the county of Essex, but I cannot account for the disappearance of so many. Now parents know they must support their families, you do not see the children in the streets as they were; they are all at work straw plaiting, and their parents make them do a certain quantity of work every day. I find the poor are now very respectful to me while engaged in the performance of my duties, though they were at one time very outrageous and insolent. There is an independent medical club in every parish in my district, and each club generally includes all the poor in the parish. I have not been asked for more than 20 medical orders in the last three months, so that it may be said that the poor have provided medical assistance for themselves. I am sure the surgeons are well satisfied with this arrangement, and the poor are decidedly much better attended as members of the independent medical clubs than they were under the old parochial contracts. The poor are pleased with the change; they now go to their surgeons as a matter of right, whenever they are ill.

As witness my hand this 7th day of June 1836,

George Scott.

The following evidence given by a labouring man to Mr. Plum, the clerk of the Cosford Union, appears to me so accurately to pourtray the evils of the past system, and the advantages derived from the present administration of relief to the poor, that I insert it in this place, for the information of the Board.

William Diaper: states—"I have been in service with, and worked for one master 13 years. I have been married five years. I have been worse off since I married than I was before. I thought at the beginning of the new Poor Law that it would be the death of us all; I now think that it will do us good, and be a benefit to the poor man, and improve his condition.

"The greatest dissatisfaction was amongst them who used to live without work, and they that had large families. They would not let their children work, and they did not try to keep their own work when they had it given them. I have heard a good many say, 'They must be fools to work, when they could get as much for doing nothing; and they did not want

want to live so well as if they had to work.' I am glad they are now forced to work as well as me to get their living. These men now make their children work, and bring them up to industry.

"Anybody can see that the Poor Law has made them who used to live without work try to get into work, and try to please their master when they have got a place, and look well after his business, and do all they can to keep their work. I have heard some men say, when spoke to by their master, 'I am d——d if I care whether he turns me off or not, as I can get as much if I don't do nothing.' Some men who have worked with me, and used to have their pay made up by the parish, did not care whether they did more than half a day's work in a day; but now that they only get what their labour will get for them, they try, and do do a good day's work, as they know they can't go to the parish if turned off.

"I never had a shilling of the parish in my life. I think I should have had better wages than I have had, if my master had not been obliged to help to make up the pay of them farmer's men that was sent to the committee. I think that wages have begun to rise, and I hope they will go on. I think the workhouse has been the cause.

"William Howard, living near me, used to be constantly on the parish, and as soon as he took his weekly money would go to a beer-house, and his wife would often go too, and they would spend nearly all the money that was given him to maintain for the week. His children was generally without bread to eat three days in the week, and was constantly in a very dirty and ragged condition; you could scarcely see their flesh for dirt, and neither shoes nor stockings on their feet, and not enough rags to cover their nakedness. They are now very different, and Howard is always at work. Farmers who would not employ him at that time will employ him now. I saw his boy last week, he had a good coat on and a good tight pair of shoes; he told me that he had no work. I said to him, I suppose you have no victuals now then. He told me that they had victuals every day now, and that his father had work.

"I have seen Howard's other children, who are now clean in their flesh and dressed neatly.

"I think that the dirty and bad appearance of Howard's children last year was owing to his being maintained in idleness, as he did not wish his children to look tidy, as from their looking ragged and dirty, the farmers might think they was bad off. I know his children now have better living than they used. The change has been made by the Union, as he knows he can have nothing but what he works for now. He does not go to the beer-house as he used to do. Being at work all day he is glad to get his supper with his family and go to bed. He used to be quarrelling half the night at the beer-shop.

"And Thomas Felgate, of my parish, used to be always out of work, but is now generally at work: he was one of those that would not work while he could possibly get his parish allowance.

"I have heard his father, John Felgate, say, he would go home and have his mess of potatoes. He was one that did not try to keep his work, and never stuck to a job long, and used to say he lived upon potatoes. I do not think his family had much besides potatoes to eat at the time I mean.

"He was bad off last winter, because the farmers knew he would not stick to his work if he had any given time, but he is now getting more regular work; and he will have work if there is any, and tries to please his master when he gets one.

"I think Felgate and his family lives better now, although he has not constant work, than he did when he had regular allowance, as he takes better care of his money that he earns.

"The farmers are more willing to employ him now than they used to be.

Taken before

"Witness, George Scott,
Relieving Officer."

T. Plum, Clerk of the Cosford Union."

198. The following are Resolutions adopted by the board of guardians of the Bosmere and Claydon Union:—

"That the board of guardians of the Bosmere and Claydon Union are unanimously of opinion that a remarkable change has taken place in the character of the pauperized labourers in their Union since the introduction of the measures of the Poor Law Commissioners; those who were idle are more anxious to procure employment, and when employed are industrious and respectful.

"The profligate and disorderly have to a great extent refrained from their vicious courses, and a great part of the money saved is evidently rescued from the beer-shop and the tavern.

"The board is moreover of opinion that though there has been a temporary pressure on some of the vicious and idle who had been accustomed to depend on the poor-rates, the condition of the mass of the labourers has been improved by their being better employed, and by the more frugal use of their means.

"The board have therefore the most unqualified satisfaction in persevering in their efforts to dispauperize the poorer classes, feeling that they will thus materially promote their domestic and social comfort, and improve their moral condition."

Hoxne Union. Spirited exertions of the Rev. Henry Owen, of Wilby.

199. In the Hoxne Union formidable difficulties embarrassed the operations of the Union, yet the board of guardians was enabled to triumph over them, and to disallow out-door relief to able-bodied males between the ages of 16 and 60, at the close of the month of April 1836. The reduction in this Union has proceeded at the rate of 40 per cent., and the board of guardians entertains the strongest conviction that the change will prove an unequivocal

Apper dix (B.)

No. 1.
Report of
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vocal advantage to the poorer classes. Through the whole course of their operations, this board has been greatly indebted to the spirited assistance of the Rev. Henry Owen of Wilby, both in his capacity as magistrate, and recently, as chairman of the board. The courage and zeal with which Mr. Owen has supported the authority of the board of guardians are now rewarded by the almost universal confession of the advantages flowing from the operation of the law.

Effects.

200. In evidence given to me, Mr. Owen says, "The moral improvement produced by the measures of the Commissioners is very evident in the Hoxne Union. In proof of this, I may state, that in the course of the two years preceding the formation of the Union, almost every beer-house keeper in one division of the Hundred was convicted of keeping a disorderly house. I have occasionally visited their houses, when I have invariably found them crowded with paupers; and loo, dice-boxes and cards upon the table: and on more than one occasion I have actually seen paupers in these houses, who had applied to me as a magistrate, on the very morning of the same day, to order relief for themselves and families. Since the formation of the Union, there has been only one conviction in this division of the Hundred for disorder in these houses. I have received constant reports from the constables of the state of these houses, and have every reason to believe that they are now entirely free from the visits of paupers; and six or eight of them have not renewed their licences."

Returns obtained by J. Pringle Barclay, esq., vice-chairman of the Plomesgate Union.

201. A series of 11 questions were circulated to the parishes of the Plomesgate Union by James Pringle Barclay, esq., the vice-chairman. These questions were answered by the guardians, churchwardens and overseers of each parish conjointly, or were submitted to a vestry meeting, and the replies agreed to there; or they were answered by the principal parishioners conjointly with the parochial officers. The questions relate to the condition of the deserving poor; the extent of employment; the cause of any change in this respect; the disposition of the labourers to work; to be obedient and respectful to their employers; the feelings of the parishioners concerning the law, divided into classes of owners, occupiers, tradesmen, publicans, labourers; the benefit derived by the parish, &c. &c. The answers to these questions may be thus stated. The change in the law has occurred with exceedingly few instances of temporary privation among the deserving poor, and those chiefly men with large families; the extent of employment has considerably increased; the labourers are much more disposed to labour, to be obedient and respectful; the parishioners are generally well satisfied with the operation of the law, the only exceptions mentioned being small shopkeepers and publicans, to whom the system of relieving in kind is obnoxious, and certain of the labourers. The advantage obtained by each parish in the reduction of expenditure is readily acknowledged.

202. In communication with the boards of guardians of the various new Unions, similar expressions of satisfaction with the operation of the law have invariably been made to me, and the conviction that all classes derive advantage from the new measures appears to gather strength with every day's experience of the results.

203. I entertain the confident expectation, that, excepting in two or three Unions, where the workhouse accommodation is still inadequate or deficient, out-door relief to able-bodied males, between the ages of 16 and 60, will not be resumed in the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk during the ensuing winter. Out-door relief to this class ceased at a very early period of the spring, or rather at the close of the winter quarter, in all the Suffolk Unions in which the workhouses were ready, and the adjustment of the disturbed relation between the employer and the labourer occurred without any material embarrassment.

204. In the parishes of Westleton and Blythburgh, in the Blything Union, the disagreement of the occupiers concerning the employment of the labourers, illustrated the influence of the workhouse system in determining such disputes. The Earl of Stradbroke informed me, that the board of guardians had found it necessary to offer the workhouse at once to a large number of persons in Westleton, and I believe the number of workhouse orders to this parish, ultimately included at least 200 persons in a population of 884. The disputes of the occupiers obliged a considerable number of these persons to accept the offer, but the cost of the maintenance of the paupers within the workhouse induced extraordinary exertions on the part of the occupiers, which rapidly diminished the number of those maintained within the walls, and ultimately procured the removal of all.

205. Such disagreements will no longer be fostered by the hope of obtaining a profit from the unequal distribution of the rates for the relief of the poor. The poor's fund will be applied to the relief of their necessities, and will no longer be a stock from which the most cunning and least scrupulous occupiers will continue to derive an advantage, at the expense of the independence of the labouring class.

206. I must refer to the statistics of the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk for the progress made in each Union, but I may add that, as the new Unions have commenced their operations with a less equivocal sanction from public opinion, and especially some of the Norfolk Unions, with earlier advantages as respects workhouse accommodation, I have no doubt that their progress will be much more rapid than that of the earlier Unions, which were opposed by difficulties that have now long ceased to exist.

207. I cannot close this report without remarking how gratifying has been the spectacle exhibited by the proceedings of each of the new boards. The nobility and gentry of the district have given their most cordial assistance to the guardians. The chairman has generally been the gentleman most distinguished by rank and fortune in the Union. The vice-chairman has sometimes been chosen from amongst the yeomanry, who have invariably selected men of great intelligence and activity for this office. Sometimes both these officers have been selected from amongst the nobility and gentry, but from whatever class chosen, the exertions made by them, and by the great majority of the guardians, have been a phenomenon

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phenomenon of the most novel and inspiriting nature. Some boards have met twice or thrice, or even four times every week, until the pauper list has been thoroughly reviewed. The meetings of the boards have generally continued from ten o'clock in the morning to six or eight o'clock in the evening, until their laborious task has been accomplished; and even afterwards have frequently been prolonged until a similar period. Party spirit, personal jealousies, and local prejudices have speedily been dissipated by the prevailing desire to find a neutral ground on which to co-operate for the public welfare. Whatever difficulties and embarrassments occurred at the earlier meetings were speedily overcome, by the common desire to unite for the removal of the enormous evil of the allowance system, and to procure the triumph of a great principle.

208. To such earnest exertions it would have been impossible not to respond with the most unremitting and active assistance, and I hope I may reckon it among the subjects of self gratulation that my efforts to establish relations of mutual confidence and good will with the various boards of guardians have been successful.

I have, &c.
J. Phillips Kay.

—No. 2.—

REPORT on the County of *Kent*, by *Edward Carleton Tufnell*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Gentlemen, 14th July 1836.

No. 2.
Report of *E. C. Tufnell*, Esq.

In compliance with your directions to report on the state of the Unions in this county, I have drawn up the following statement. It will be found to refer chiefly to East Kent, not because the western division does not present results as extraordinary and marked as the eastern, but because the Unions in the latter district having been formed at a much earlier time, and having now experienced every season, through a period of nearly a year and a half, the effects produced by the new system of management may be more readily deduced from inspecting them, with less chance of error in our conclusions.

Reduction of Pauperism.

In January of this year I circulated some questions in the five Unions of Blean, Faversham, Milton, Sheppey and Bridge, with the view of ascertaining to what extent able-bodied pauperism had been reduced by the operation of your rules for giving relief. My queries required a return of the able-bodied paupers, and of the wives and families dependent on them, in the two weeks ending respectively 10th January 1835 and 9th January 1836, in the first of which the old system was in action, in the second, the new. These five Unions comprise 87 parishes, from each of which I received answers to my queries, and which were previously for the most part as much pauperised as any part of Kent, the poor expenditure in several of them exceeding 20*s.* a head on the population. I should observe that in none of these Unions was the new system of management carried on with severity or harshness, nor even with efficiency; the workhouses being nowhere completed, to none of them had your order prohibiting out-door relief to the able-bodied been issued, and the guardians seem in general to have used both discretion and humanity in exercising the powers confided to them. I should observe that I have reason to believe that the first column gives the number of paupers considerably below the truth, and consequently the reduction of numbers appears less than it really is. The inaccuracy is probably owing to the negligent mode formerly adopted of keeping parochial accounts, which makes it extremely difficult to get satisfactory returns of what occurred a year back.

The following is the tabulated result:

COMPARISON of Able-bodied Pauperism in Five Unions comprising Eighty-seven Parishes in the Two Weeks ending 10th January 1835 and 9th January 1836.

NAMES OF THE UNIONS.	Number of Able-bodied Male Paupers in the Week ending 10 Jan. 1835.	Number of Wives and Families dependent on the above.	TOTAL in 1835.	Number of Able-bodied Male Paupers in the Week ending 9 Jan. 1836.	Number of Wives and Families dependent on the above.	TOTAL in 1836.	Decrease per Cent.
Blean	197	572	769	93	292	385	50
Faversham	295	1,111	1,406	114	382	496	65
Milton	206	615	821	32	116	148	70
Sheppey	87	247	334	12	29	41	88
Bridge	145	424	569	19	17	36	94
Total	930	2,969	3,899	270	836	1,106	

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Numbers of inmates of workhouses in East Kent.

At the present moment the whole of the above five Unions only contain one able-bodied male pauper, nor is it anticipated that the number will ever be materially or at all greater.

The following Tables give a classified account of all the inmates in all the East Kent workhouses at two periods. The division of the county comprised in these Unions, contains by the census of 1831, a population of 158,343, consequently the number of those who accept the offer of a workhouse is less than one per cent. on the population. Your order prohibiting out-door relief to the able-bodied, has only been issued to nine out of these twelve Unions, but it is practically stopped in the whole of them by the voluntary determination of the guardians. Hence the following statement may be considered as giving an accurate return of all the able-bodied male paupers in East Kent, with the exception of part of Dover and Canterbury, which are not in Union under the Poor Law Amendment Act:

TABLE showing the Number of Inmates in the Workhouses of the East Kent Unions in the Week ending 9th July 1836.

—	Ashford, East.	Ashford, West.	Blean.	Bridge.	Eastry.	Elham.	Faversham.	Milton.	River.	Romney Marsh.	Sheppey.	Thanet, Isle of.	TOTAL.
Population - -	10,751	10,758	11,139	10,439	23,870	14,137	14,923	10,689	10,754	4,859	9,934	26,090	158,343
Men, able-bodied -	1	1	–	1	11	–	5	–	2	1	–	1	23
—— old and infirm -	15	14	12	21	69	31	32	19	30	5	18	82	363
—— ill and lame -	4	2	3	5	26	14	3	8	9	9	11	32	137
Youths, from 8 to 15 yrs.	15	21	9	17	27	13	19	20	12	17	21	35	225
Boys, from 2 to 8 years	5	8	7	11	18	9	15	13	9	7	9	19	125
Women, able-bodied -	9	9	2	6	25	6	11	11	10	9	13	17	122
—— old and infirm	2	11	10	11	51	12	14	3	20	4	24	52	208
—— ill and lame -	1	4	2	7	5	8	7	5	9	9	5	25	90
Girls, from 8 to 15 yrs.	4	9	4	8	25	–	11	6	5	11	18	24	121
—— from 2 to 8 years	–	4	5	11	14	5	9	12	7	8	14	21	107
Infants - - - -	2	3	2	3	8	1	6	5	6	7	5	10	54
TOTAL - - -	58	86	56	101	279	99	132	102	119	87	138	318	1,575
Per cent. of Inmates on Population -	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{6}{8}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$1\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{6}{8}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	1	$1\frac{1}{5}$	$1\frac{3}{5}$	$1\frac{4}{5}$	$1\frac{3}{5}$	1

TABLE showing the Number of Inmates in the Workhouses of the East Kent Unions in the Week ending 20th Aug. 1836.

—	Ashford, East.	Ashford, West.	Blean.	Bridge.	Eastry.	Elham.	Faversham.	Milton.	River.	Romney Marsh.	Sheppey.	Thanet, Ilse of.	TOTAL.
Population - -	10,751	10,758	11,139	10,439	23,870	14,137	14,923	10,689	10,754	4,859	9,934	26,090	158,343
Men, able-bodied -	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	2	–	–	1	5
—— old and infirm -	13	12	14	15	71	28	32	18	20	5	17	82	327
—— ill and lame -	2	2	2	6	25	14	5	8	7	9	11	22	113
Youths, from 8 to 15 yrs.	12	22	5	12	24	13	15	19	11	17	21	36	207
Boys, from 2 to 8 years	3	8	8	11	17	10	13	11	6	7	6	17	117
Women, able-bodied -	3	9	3	7	9	9	7	10	9	8	11	11	96
—— old and infirm	3	13	11	6	62	13	14	5	21	6	25	55	234
—— ill and lame -	3	4	2	6	3	8	5	7	8	6	7	17	76
Girls, from 8 to 15 years	2	9	6	7	24	–	9	9	3	10	18	24	121
—— from 2 to 8 years	2	5	5	10	12	7	5	12	5	7	15	22	107
Infants - - -	1	2	3	5	7	2	5	5	4	6	5	7	52
TOTAL - - -	44	86	59	85	254	105	111	104	96	81	136	294	1,455
Per cent. of Inmates on Population	$\frac{3}{5}$	$\frac{6}{8}$	$\frac{4}{5}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$1\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{6}{8}$	$\frac{6}{8}$	1	$\frac{7}{5}$	$1\frac{5}{8}$	$1\frac{3}{5}$	$1\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{7}{8}$

On reviewing this Table I cannot help remarking on the unexpected results it brings out. Most of these Unions provided accommodation for 500 able-bodied paupers. "We thought," says the chairman of the Milton Union, "that we should want workhouse room for 500 able-bodied, and for 1,000 of the other classes: it turns out that we have no able-bodied males, not enough females to do the work of the house, and only 105 inmates altogether." The return to you by my predecessor of the number receiving relief in this Union, previous to its formation, gives a total of 1,900, and to this a note is appended, as if to excuse the proposal to build so small a house as one for 500. "Of this number not one half, it is expected, would come into a workhouse." Experience has shown that only 1-19th will. These 500 pauper workhouses with which East Kent is studded, were built for the able-bodied, and we find that any one of them will hold ten times the number that all East Kent can supply. The number of workhouse inmates, in the several parishes forming the East Kent Unions at the time when they were united together, was 3,767; and as, on the 20th of August last, there were only 1,455, the reduction has been 2,312, or 61 per cent.

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The following Table gives the number of able-bodied male paupers in the 12 East Kent Unions at the period of their formation, as returned by the overseers at that time, in contrast with the present numbers. The dates at which the Unions were formed, and the first of the columns in the following table made out, were very various, being just as it happened to suit the convenience of arrangement.

NAMES OF THE UNIONS.	Number of Able-bodied Male Paupers at the period of their formation.	Present Number of Able-bodied Male Paupers, 20th August 1836.
Ashford, East	527	—
Ashford, West	241	—
Blean	228	—
Bridge	260	—
Eastry	497	—
Elham	339	1
Faversham	439	1
Milton	252	—
River	134	2
Romney Marsh	157	—
Sheppey	92	—
Thanet, Isle of	346	1
Total	3,512	5

Reduction of Poor Rate.

The pecuniary saving is generally 50 per cent. throughout the county. By taking the expenditure for the quarter ending 25th March for all the 24 Kentish Unions then in action, and multiplying the sum by four, I find the reduction, as compared with the average of the three previous years, to exceed 100,000*l.* As this quarter is the most expensive in the year, as many of the Unions had then barely commenced their proceedings, and nearly the whole had to provide their outfit, which will not again occur, the reduction can now hardly be proceeding at a less rate than 150,000*l.* per annum, and the whole saving to the county cannot in future fall short of that sum, or more probably will amount to an annual total of 200,000*l.*

I am aware that from the above statements no satisfactory conclusion can be drawn, and that something more is wanted before we can be warranted in determining that any benefit, or rather that no harm has resulted from the change. It presents no very agreeable picture if we reflect that the large reduction in the number of paupers, may have been brought about by driving them to die of starvation, or live by fraud. The lessening of the taxation of the county to the amount of 150,000*l.* per annum, may appear anything but beneficial, if it is so much subtracted, uncompensated, from the pockets of the poorer classes. Therefore it becomes an essential point of the inquiry to find out what has become of those persons who were formerly supported by the poor rates.

Absorption of Surplus Population

In order to discover this, to those queries which I stated before that I had distributed to five Kentish Unions, requiring a comparison of the number of able-bodied paupers at two periods, I appended the following. "If the comparison of the two periods shows a decrease, state generally what has become of the class of persons who were receiving relief from the poor rates during the period alluded to in the first column? Whether they have found work? Whether they have left their parishes? Whether they have been in distress, or in what way it is supposed they have been supported?" Every one of the 87 parishes to which the question was issued, replied to it; and the almost universal answer was, that those who were receiving relief had found work and were supporting themselves by their own exertions. Those who had left their parishes were so small in number as hardly to deserve mention, while there was one, and only one, confession of distress having been produced; this was in the small parish of Stodmarsh, from whence the question as to what had become of their able-bodied paupers is answered thus: "One, who is single, is in service, the other two are married men; one is in regular employ, the other is occasionally employed, but I have reason to think he has been in distress." One of the answers also, though rather in vague terms, expresses a belief that some of the paupers have been driven to evil courses. This is from the parish of Rainham, previously one of the worst managed in the county, and which had reduced its paupers from 183 to 32. The reply from this parish is, "Most of these were employed in the gravel pits for Mr. Rainhard, and about three-fourths of their earnings was returned to the parish. Some of the above are now engaged by Mr. Rainhard on his own account. Some have left the parish for distant brickfields. Some thrashing, some have obtained employment and gone to Lisbon, and the remainder idle by day, and poaching or thieving by night." This is the only reply of this character that I have received. It appears that some of the paupers who before lived on the rates, that is, out of the farmers' pockets, now live on game, that is, out of the landlords' pockets. One mode of life is usually attended by as much fraud as the other; the parish has benefited by getting rid of the great majority of its paupers in a satisfactory way, the remainder are as bad as before.

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before. I should observe, however, that this statement is at direct variance with the opinion of the chairman of the Union in which Rainham is situated, who, writing to me on other topics, incidentally remarks, "Sheep-stealing, and breaking open stables and barns to steal corn, was formerly very prevalent in this neighbourhood; but only one instance has come to my knowledge in the 18 parishes during the last winter. It is also my opinion that poaching has diminished, but on this head I cannot speak positively; it certainly has on my own property."

But a far more satisfactory way of arriving at a correct conclusion respecting the effects, good or ill, that have been produced by this large reduction of paupers and poor expenditure, is by taking the direct evidence of those persons who have superintended the chief management of the new system, and who are of course intimately and practically acquainted with its workings. For this purpose I have made some extensive inquiries among the chairmen, magistrates, relieving officers, &c. of the various Unions in Kent; and the answers I receive are so uniform, that unless, on the supposition that my informants, from all parts of the county, have entered into a well-combined conspiracy to support an untruth, I do not see how any reasonable person can escape from the conclusion, that the Poor Law Amendment Act is operating with a supremely beneficial effect, on all classes of the community. To the inquiry as to what has become of the able-bodied, who were formerly dependent on their parishes, Mr. Gilbert, late chairman of the River Union, replies, "Agricultural labourers, of which the working classes chiefly consist, have been, for the most part, employed, some of them certainly partially; yet these (except in cases of illness), will not accept an order for the workhouse, trusting the approaching sainfoin and hay-making, together with the usual demand for summer labour, will enable them to eke out a livelihood till harvest. Of these, some in the interim hawk fish, &c. &c., through the villages; others have opened small shops, and devised means of maintaining their families, unheeded under the old easy way of obtaining parish relief. In the large parishes in and contiguous to Dover, many are now at work repairing the harbour, a laborious occupation, which they refused to perform while the parish purse was open to their demands; others, who were never known to work, but were always on the parish, are now steadily employed at their respective trades; and many get occasional jobs, which industrious men can obtain in a populous neighbourhood, especially in seaport towns. Some belong to friendly societies, and obtain partial relief. A very few have entered the navy; and one or two paper-makers have migrated. The following, from among a number of parallel cases, will prove how much the discontinuing out-door relief has tended to force the wantonly idle to exert themselves:

"A paper-maker belonging to Buckland, preferring parish relief in idleness to work, refused to do so under 30*s.* a week, and was so insolent to his masters, that they at length refused to employ him, and he became (what he wished to be), a regular weekly pauper; but finding, under the new system, he could no longer obtain his pension, he now prefers the laborious exertions of excavating for the tunnels in Dover Harbour to encountering the discipline of the workhouse.

"Another man, belonging to the same parish (a carpenter), for years resolutely refused to work, and was so idle, that during harvest (when most men exert themselves to gain a few pounds), he would return, pretend to be ill, or to have strained himself, and use every sort of excuse to be restored to the parish books. This man now keeps a green-grocer's shop, and has regular employment at his trade.

"There never has been a real surplus population in this Union; and were all the labourers equally distributed, they would be required to keep the land in a good state of cultivation. Under the old system, relief being nearly always granted on application, and the chief part of their time and money spent at the alehouse, labourers gradually fell into idle, disorderly habits, and began greatly to prefer being a pensioner on the road (receiving relief nearly equal to the wages of the industrious and the good), to working for the farmer, who, in his turn, was content to leave as many things as possible undone, rather than employ one of those idlers, who would perhaps return to his parish without completing his work, insolently remarking, that he would not work for 3*s.* a week, such being the sum he would receive above what the parish would have allowed him.

"Under the restrictions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, both masters and labourers began to reflect on their relative duties; and many of the latter, finding menaces against the relieving officers unattended to, applied to be set to work; and considerate persons, anxious to prevent men, who might probably be reclaimed from bad habits, being compelled to enter the workhouse, have employed an additional labourer or two during the winter; and in the well-regulated parishes, of which there are several in this Union, all the labourers are employed; and I have little doubt that henceforth all who are industriously inclined will obtain a fair share of employment."

Sir John Tylden, chairman of the Milton Union, says, "The greater part have obtained constant employment with the same master; and all work under various employers. I only know of one man who has left the district. He was engaged in the riots in May 1835, and ran away when a warrant was issued for his apprehension. The board of guardians sent one of the labourers to Manchester, that he might make inquiries satisfactory to the labourers themselves. His report was favourable; but not one family has made application to go. At the last board day (June 29th), not one able-bodied male pauper was in the house. It is therefore fair to presume, that all the class alluded to have found work."

"The saving made in the rates (nearly 50 per cent.), has enabled the farmer to employ more men, because he can now do so with the certainty that his money will be laid out in profitable labour, under his own eye and directions, instead of being either absolutely wasted,

wasted, or if laid out on labour, it was labour of the most useless and unproductive kind, where the men were left to loiter away the day, and thus literally to 'eat the bread of idleness.' The wholesome dread of the workhouse, and its discipline also, made this class seek for work, and take it on any terms, so that they could get employment. Thus work has been found, and the idea that there was a surplus of labourers proved to be erroneous by this fact, all the labouring population of the 18 parishes are now employed."

The moral effects of this employment are daily more and more apparent. The peasantry are more orderly in their behaviour, pay greater attention to their families; their moral habits are decidedly improved; beer-shops and ale-houses are not so much frequented; places of public worship more so; and towards their employers they are more civil and obliging. All this has naturally induced their employers to exert themselves to better the condition of their labourers, and to provide all the work they can; and it has called forth a great deal of individual charity. I may add, that the alteration in the law of settlement has proved of great use, not only in a pecuniary point of view, by preventing litigation, but it has indirectly, perhaps, been a cause of employment, because it has unlocked the labour market, and permitted a man to leave his parish, and seek for work in other places, when overstocked in his own parish. I have known many instances under the old system, where men positively refused to leave their parish to seek for work. This had its origin in the old law of settlement, which made farmers so cautious in employing any man not belonging to their parish; but now this sort of conduct is never heard of."

Mr. Ray, surgeon to the same Union, whose professional pursuits make him intimately acquainted with the habits and feelings of the working classes, replies to the same inquiry, "They are all employed. The apparent surplus has been absorbed in several ways: 1st. There has been an increased demand for labour; and the men have earnestly sought for it, which they did not formerly. 2d. They (even the worst of them), have become civil and obliging; they now go, cap in hand, asking for work as a favour; and in most instances the masters, softened by the wonderful change, and feeling the pressure of the poor-rate in some measure removed, are almost as anxious to find work as the labourer is to obtain it."

Mr. Henderson, vice-chairman of the Eastry Union, says, "The able-bodied labourers, who were formerly dependent on their parishes, or rather those who drew so largely therefrom, in the shape of parochial relief, are still in their parishes, or the towns and parishes adjacent (those who have migrated to the northern counties being so few as not to deserve notice, while those who have emigrated to distant colonies are fewer still), and doubtless procure for themselves and families livelihoods much as formerly, as it is notorious that much, if not all, obtained as parochial relief was expended in public houses or the beer-shops.

"All out-door relief to the able-bodied being discontinued, those labourers, who subsisted on the parish funds, or rather those who affected to do so, are now dependent on their own earnings (being driven to their own resources), and which, it is clearly ascertained, were obtained formerly. The weekly pensions so received, in most instances, by the non-resident labourers, under the plea of 'no employ,' being fraudulently obtained, earnings so high as 20*s.*, and even 24*s.*, were made weekly. And still have there been parties so dishonest as to apply for parochial relief (and the application being made, was uniformly successful), declaring that they have earned nothing, or at most a few shillings only.

"Under the old system there were two parties taking advantage of the then parochial difficulties, one party being the surplus labourers who were dishonestly inclined (some of good characters, and rightly disposed, there certainly were), the other party being in much too many instances occupiers and rate-payers themselves: the first seeking and obtaining relief (as it was so denominated), under the pretext of no employment, when they had earned equally with, if not exceeding, the independent labourers: the second seeking and availing themselves of opportunities to have the labourers' services, the parish paying part of the earnings. Such system was successfully practised in parishes where the surplus labourers were allotted for employment periodically. Occupiers would speculate on the chance of having labourers allotted at the ensuing ballot for such purpose, whether weekly or monthly, or failing in such speculation, would borrow from others (who might not need the services of supernumerary labourers when allotted to them), rather than engage labourers, duly and fairly requiting their services. Thus having much of the regular and necessary work of their farms paid for out of the parish rates was a practice successfully adopted, and which there was no preventing, through a want of unanimity among the occupiers and rate-payers.

"Now under the new law, occupiers who so availed themselves are compelled to pay for what labour they have performed, engaging labourers when they require the services of any, so that there are doubtless more independent labourers employed than formerly. And the labourers can no longer make such large drafts on their parishes in such a shamefully fraudulent and dishonest manner."

Mr. Cramp, chairman of the Isle of Thanet Union, says, "Some have emigrated; a few have migrated, and more will follow, as very favourable accounts have been received from the first family that went. Others have found employment either in their own or in neighbouring parishes.

"The men are now much more desirous of getting employment, and more anxious to keep it. Instead of falling back at once on their own parishes, and indolently waiting the result of an application for relief, they will now traverse the country in search of work, and endeavour, by all the means in their power, to avoid such application."

Mr. Wildman, chairman of the East Ashford Union, says, "The able-bodied paupers, who were formerly dependent on their parishes, have now been compelled to seek work, which is

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more readily afforded them in their parishes, as they work willingly, and are civil instead of abusive. They fill up their vacant time by working gardens for themselves."

Mr. Neame, chairman of the Faversham Union, says, "The able-bodied labourers, who were in great numbers maintained out of the poor and highway rates, have been generally employed, only a very few families in the Union have found occasion to migrate, and in no instance am I aware of any diminution in wages.

"There are two causes which I conceive mainly to have produced an increase of labour in this Union; the first and most powerful has been, the anxious desire to obtain work, which has been evinced by numbers, who, by the mal-administration of the old law, had long been sunk to the lowest degree of idleness, depravity and pauperism; another may be found in the increased ability of the agriculturists, arising from a reduction of about 8,000 *l.* in the poor-rates within the last year."

Mr. Chambers, chairman of the Sheppey Union, says, "It is very difficult, constituted as this Union is, with its principal population residing at a sea-port town and naval arsenal, to ascertain the advance of morals by the change of the law. The arrival even of a single ship will cause a sudden influx of money, which, if honestly obtained, I fear is not always wisely spent. Yet even here an improved desire exists to seek independent labour, and a greater study to retain it. At the formation of this Union we had in Sheerness a considerable number of shoemakers, tailors, &c. &c., in receipt of weekly assistance, nearly all of whom, on being offered the house, refused, and have ever since maintained themselves without any visible alteration in their circumstances for the worse. In the country parishes, the habits of the poor are gradually, yet perceptibly improving. Few masters but will admit their labourers and servants are becoming more industrious and desirous of pleasing than formerly, more anxious to work by the piece, showing thought for the future, and, I conceive, a kinder feeling arising between master and men. But the greatest satisfaction I have, is in reporting the altered manner of those applying for relief; formerly, all the arts of evasion, lying, or daring impudence, were adopted to conceal from the board their true circumstances; but now they generally reply in a frank and candid manner, and I infer they possess more confidence in the impartiality of the guardians, and adopt truth from policy, if not from love. The demand for labour has been equal to the supply; but a strong line is arising between men of good and bad characters; the former is gaining the ascendant."

Mr. Denne, chairman of the Romney Marsh Union, says, "They are generally employed, and usually would have been at this season of the year. It is during the winter months only that any number of able-bodied labourers have been unemployed and dependent on the parish. At the same time, I am convinced that this apparent surplus of labour has, in almost all cases, been produced by the operation of the billeting and roundsman systems, and payments from the rates in aid of wages, and also of course by the improvidence of the labourers, who relied on their own right to 'work or relief' in their own parishes. When this Union was first established, upwards of 20 able-bodied unemployed labourers were receiving relief in one parish, and attended at the board of guardians to apply for its continuance. They were informed that for many weeks a number of hands (more than could be procured) had been required at the sea-wall at Dymchurch, about eight miles distant, and that 40 labourers from distant parishes had been discharged the day before. Yet not one of those men, although professing to be perfectly destitute, and acquainted as they must have been with this demand for labour, at 2 *s.* a day, had thought fit to walk eight miles to procure it.

"The steady and firm refusal of out-door relief to able-bodied labourers, by throwing them on their own resources, has obliged them to maintain themselves by many means, to which, while parish relief was open to every applicant, they would not previously apply themselves. The proceeds of all extra work and means of obtaining money having hitherto been usually applied to indulgences of different descriptions, to dress among the women and children, and to drunkenness and luxurious living among the men, availed nothing towards the necessary maintenance of their families. But now, in many cases, paupers, who have previously been supposed to be maintained wholly by parochial relief, that relief being entirely withdrawn, are apparently in a better condition, when forced to rely on the means above-mentioned (the principal of which in this Union are fishing and picking up wool) than when receiving parish relief, and indeed have refused employment when offered to them. This also is the case of young widows, who, although perfectly able to maintain themselves, have received their "widow's pay" as a matter of course. Wages having always been unusually high in this Union have not risen. It has formerly been urged, that pauperism and discontent have, in most cases, been occasioned by insufficient wages, but I am convinced that no amount of wages would render a labourer either contented or provident, while he imagined that he had at all times a right to "work or relief" at home whenever he chose to apply for it. Amongst the unemployed able-bodied labourers whom I have above mentioned was one man, with whose earnings I was well acquainted, as he had for almost the whole of the previous year been employed by me. It was proved to the board of guardians by his own confession that he had occasionally during this period earned 42 *s.* a week, and never less than 15 *s.*, that he had only been unemployed altogether about five weeks, and that he had two boys to maintain, two of his children being in the workhouse. Yet this man, although bearing a good character for sobriety, assured us that he had nothing to eat, and actually shed tears before us. I have since heard (during my recent absence from the board of guardians) that he, being unwell, had applied for medical reltef, although at this time earning at least 40 *s.* a week as a sheep-shearer. On the other hand, I have in my employment an old man, aged 72, who has always been an independant labourer, and is now in steady work at 10 *s.* a week. Hearing that he had been absent from his work for three or four days, I went to see him, and found him ill in bed; but it never once appeared to have occurred

occurred to him that there was such a person as the parish doctor, and, although obliged to employ a medical man, he never once applied for or received any parochial relief whatever.

" I have merely mentioned these instances to prove my previous assertion. At the same time I wish it to be understood, that I am desirous of seeing labourers' wages rise to any extent to which a legitimate demand and fair competition can raise them."

Mr. Lake, chairman of the Bridge Union, says, " I have no doubt that the new law in its progress has worked and is working wonders among the lower classes, and, if the boards are well kept up, the time is not far distant when the peasant will again become his 'country's pride.'

" I will instance one parish (we have several like it in our Union), and you may estimate for yourself the value of the beneficial changes, present and future.

" Previous to the Union, on an average the workhouse contained 20, and from 20 to 25, able-bodied, were out of employ. The greatest insubordination prevailed. Five incendiary fires occurred, and, but for the prompt and decisive steps taken by our incendiary committee, many more would have happened. Civility was almost unknown unless dearly purchased, and the beer-shops, &c. were filled during Sunday with paupers, many of whom received over night their parish pay. At these places plans for depredations were laid, and most of the employers were talked of in the most abusive manner.

" Now, during the last quarter, not one has been received in our house, nor has one been unemployed. Meet them when you may, proper civility is shown from the very men who before, on the slightest pretence, would insult you. The last few weeks I have employed 60 or 70 of the worst of several parishes, and have been really astonished at their altered manner and action. The first week they were unavoidably prevented from earning more than from 7*s.* to 10*s.*; but even this was received with cheerfulness and thanks, without an uncivil word (before he must have possessed good nerve who could or would confront them). After this, many who for years depended on parish pay, nine out of every 12 months, earned their 15*s.* to 18*s.* and even 20*s.* per week. One man in my own parish who had been taken into my employ, and the greatest pains taken to make him a useful member of society, five or six different times with the same want of success, now takes his proper place, and is as cheerful as his companions, though before he displayed an overcharged portion of 'old dull care.' To me, who have ever said we had no redundancy of labourers, this result is gratifying."

Mr. Love, chairman of the Sevenoaks Union, says, " I think I shall not be saying too much when I inform you, that the result of the introduction of the new poor law in this neighbourhood has been productive of a greater degree of moral, as well as pecuniary benefit, than the most sanguine among us anticipated. In fact, such is the judgment and opinion of those who, in the first instance, evinced the greatest hostility to the measure.

" We have had but very few applications for assistance from able-bodied labourers for the last few months, and I am convinced, if we carry out the principle of the law uniformly and consistently (except where sickness shall render assistance imperative), in a few years it will entirely cease, either to be expected or sought for.

" It appears now to be clearly understood by the labourers generally, that mental or physical inability to work is the only valid plea for obtaining subsistence from the contribution of the public, and that age or station are no longer exempt from toil, or the duties of self-dependance. A greater anxiety prevails to enter benefit clubs than for some years past, and, although some characters yield a sullen submission to the law, who at first threatened positive violence; all appear to exert themselves in earnest for their own advantage and support. The improvement in the behaviour and general demeanour of the hitherto confirmed paupers, is more marked and manifest than in the conduct of the independent labourers.

In the Hollingbourn Union, 1845 paupers were relieved on the 31st of April, when your order for stopping out-door relief to the able-bodied arrived, which caused the numbers on the 5th of May to dwindle to 938, or more than one-half were instantly struck off the poor-books, and of these only 12 again applied for relief.

George Bailey, relieving officer of the Union, examined as to the effects produced by the nion.

" What became of the paupers whose relief was stopped?—They were before on the roads receiving 9*s.* a week wages, and the rest out of the poor-book, according to their families. Many of them left the roads and got work elsewhere; 23 out of my district got employment on the coast, along the Isle of Sheppey and Whitstable. Many of the single men refused work, unless the farmers would promise to employ them till harvest. I have no doubt many will agree with the farmers next harvest to be employed during the winter, or they will not take the work."

" Is the land better cultivated than formerly?—It is too early to say that; but as there are many more employed on the land, it must be better cultivated. I find that the large farmers say, 'we ought to lay out in labour what we save in poor-rates.' I have heard many farmers in Boughton say they are now enabled to pay for more labourers, and that consequently the land will be more cultivated. One man in Lenham, who formerly did all the work on his farm himself, now employs a labourer, because the rate is so much reduced."

William Fishenden, relieving officer of the Sheppey Union, examined.

" What has become of those who were formerly on the parish?—They found employ and when they got it they took care to keep it. I can see they are very anxious to get employ; they have told me they must look out for work.

" Was last winter a favourable one for work?—It was rather more favourable than usual, owing to the building of a church and some new houses; but there would have been just as

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many in the parish on the old system. I have known a person go among the able-bodied paupers and offer them work at 3*s.* a day and two pints of beer, and not one would go. They were getting about 2*s.* a day from the parish, but they were doing nothing; they would not take the offer because they would have had something to do.

"Has there been any distress produced by the Union?—I think some of the parties suffered a little, but I can see it has produced a marked difference among what we called the confirmed paupers. They have become good members of society, and carry themselves respectably."

It is obvious from the above evidence, that the enormous mass of apparently surplus population that was before the curse of this county, has been almost entirely absorbed; and not only this, but even in some parts an actual deficiency of hands has been experienced or apprehended. "I have just," says the chairman of the Blean Union, "been taking some labourers in the wet weather, though I did not want them, that I might have them in the fine. I feared I should not get them in the fine, because there is a deficiency of labourers in the country." In some part of the Penshurst Union also, there were not enough labourers to dig the hop-grounds, although this species of labour is the highest paid of any, 15*s.* a week being a common rate of wages to those employed at it. The absorption cannot be accounted for by the carrying on of any large public works or railways, as there have been none in this county. I have heard it partly attributed to the abundant harvest of last year, which furnished an unusual quantity of work during the winter. In the Weald of Kent the produce was undoubtedly unusually large, but former abundant harvests had not caused a similar absorption of paupers; and in East Kent, where this result is most remarkable, except a small part extending from Ashford to Hythe, there is no weald at all. In fact, in some parts of Kent the winter has been an exceedingly unfavourable one for work. "The last winter," says the vice-chairman of the Malling Union, "we consider one of the worst ever known for the labouring classes, owing to the continual interruption to work caused by the wet weather."

That the apparent surplus population should so easily have disappeared, that the labourers who before depended on parochial aid, should so readily have found work, seems to me the inevitable effect of the operation of Unions, and that it would have been far more extraordinary had it been otherwise. The evidence given above explains, in many parts, the main secret of this easy transition from pauperism to independence. The employers take more labourers, because, paying less poor-rate, they have more money to lay out in their respective businesses; they could not employ them under the old system, because they had not the funds. A farmer has frequently said to me, "I have gained 100*l.* this year by the Union;" and in answer to my inquiry as to what he had done with that 100*l.*, the usual reply is, "Why, sir, I laid it out on my farm; what else could I do with it?" In fact, the change that has been produced mainly consists in a transference of money from relief to wages. The farmer pays away just as much as he did before; he only pays directly, instead of paying through the intervention of the overseer. The paupers were maintained out of the land before, and they are maintained out of it now; but formerly their support was given as the reward of idleness and importunity, now as the reward of industry. The difference of the two systems, however, though simple, is of importance almost infinite to both employer and labourer. To the farmer it makes the difference of whether he shall have a willing or an unwilling servant, a bad or a good workman, of whether his farm shall be half cultivated or fully cultivated; to the latter, of whether he shall be maintained because he is a useful member of society, and his industry entitles him to support, or because he happens to have a settlement in the parish.

It seems at first sight, that to subtract 100,000*l.* in a year from the pockets of the poorer classes, as has apparently been done in this county, must have produced extensive misery. It certainly, however, has not, and moreover it cannot. The explanation of this seeming anomaly is obvious, when it is understood that virtually not a penny of it is subtracted, or, what is the same thing, is instantly returned to them in another form. My inquiry of a farmer as to what he has done with his savings, is sometimes replied to by the assertion, that some of it he has laid out on his farm, and some on himself. That part which he has laid out on his farm clearly goes instantly to the labourers on his farm; the remainder he may have laid out on clothes, or furniture, or gingerbread, &c.; that is, the money has gone either to the journeyman tailor, or carpenter, or baker. If he puts the money in the bank, the banker discounts it out; that is, somebody else spends it for him. In some way or another, every farthing of his savings must get to the labouring classes; and to such a disposition of his funds he is bound by a necessity as inevitable as that by which he submits to the law of gravity, or to any other condition of our nature.

Favourable feeling of the Labourers toward the New Poor Laws.

One of the most pleasing and important testimonies to the well working of the new poor law, may be drawn from the changed feelings of many of the labouring classes towards it. They were at first, as was natural, violently prejudiced against it; and their hostility was farther inflamed by the representations of persons in the rank of beer-shop keepers, small tradesmen and assistant overseers, many of whom imagined their interests attacked, and several of whom really made large profits, owing to the former parochial mismanagement. The effect of the new system, in elevating the condition of the honest labourer, has now become so manifest, that the hostility to it is rapidly subsiding, and, in some places, has given rise to a thorough reaction in its favour.

In reply to my question, "Whether the industrious poor had discovered that their interests were benefited by the operation of the new poor law?" the chairman of the Isle of Thanet Union

Union says, "Decidedly so; the idle and refractory, however, are discontented, and will ever be so."

The late chairman of the River Union says, "Pauperism had become so general under the old poor law, that there were very few labourers who had not in some shape or other received parish relief; wherefore they are, generally speaking, still unfavourable to the new law; but I am happy to say, I know deserving, honest labourers, who acknowledge the shameful impositions practised by unworthy men, and the stern justice of the new system; but from having had it so much reviled among their fellows, and from old associations, they are not as yet reconciled to the loss of their right (as they one and all consider it) of receiving out-door relief when really destitute."

The chairman of the Milton Union, in reply to the same question, says, "As far as my inquiries go, this is decidedly the case; and one labourer, who is a rate-payer, told me the other day, 'I am glad to find, sir, that all the idle young lads and 'malingerers' are now obliged to look out for work and maintain themselves, and not be living like gentlemen, while people like we could scarcely earn enough to pay our way, and help keep these chaps into the bargain. This is as it ought to be.'

"They are altogether much improved in their general habits and conduct, and they are certainly more satisfied, because now every deserving labourer is sure of constant employment; and even the idle and disorderly, who used to pretend that work was all they wanted, but never sought for it, no longer having that plea to urge in excuse for their idleness, are becoming more industrious by the force of example, and the wholesome dread of the workhouse."

The surgeon to the Milton Union says, "There is a growing conviction in the mind of the industrious labourer that he will eventually be benefited."

The chairman of the East Ashford Union says, "I think the industrious labourers are well aware that the idle can no longer impose and gain support as before, and are therefore more contented, and are themselves thus benefited, not having to pay rates for keeping them, and are more attentive and civil."

The chairman to the Faversham Union says, "Those labourers who have long been in constant employ know that their interests are not injured by the new law. In no part of civilized society has character more influence than among the labouring classes, and they are fully aware that the greatly increased demand for labour by those who never sought it formerly, must be met by a corresponding degree of vigilance and good conduct on their part, or they cannot maintain the superiority they have enjoyed.

"The excitement produced by the change of system has entirely subsided, the labourers appear to be reconciled to it, are much better disposed in their general conduct, and will doubtless now feel the natural pride of independence. As the value of money, like every other commodity, is enhanced by the difficulty of procuring it, the poor man who labours hard to maintain it, will in the same proportion economise his expenditure. The profligate pauper of former days, who obtained his weekly income without labour, usually spent a large portion of it at a public-house or beer-shop, while his wife and helpless family were often left in a state of destitution at home."

The chairman of the Romney Marsh Union says, "I am not aware that the good labourers in regular employment are at all opposed to the operation of the new poor law; indeed, I could mention instances in which the very few who have not been in any way chargeable, have spoken in praise of it. But the confirmed pauper is disposed to evince his disapprobation of the change by sulkiness and incivility."

The chairman of the Eastry Union says, "I am glad to perceive that the law is rising in estimation in the public opinion, and more particularly among the working classes themselves, and that the clouds of prejudice are quickly passing away by the salutary benefits it has already manifested. For, as far as it regards the real poor and those who are objects of pity, their condition under the new workhouse regulations is improved, their diet, their comforts and accommodations are far better; they are more robust and healthy."

One of the Hollingbourn relieving officers said, in answer to my question, "Do the labourers like the new law?"—"The industrious labourers consider it a benefit, the paupers consider it very hard. Two labourers named Gibson and Bennet insisted, a short time ago, that I should drink with them, because of the new way of giving relief. I asked them why they considered it a benefit to them; they said the farmers, rather than see them go to the poorhouse, found them work, and they in return were grateful for it, and 'we won't like them find fault with us.'"

"Have the characters of labourers changed?" "The farmers say they are more ready to work, and more careful about being dismissed. Smith was an habitual pauper in the parish of Lenham, for several years receiving 9*s.* a week, and two gallons in kind; he now earns 10*s.*, and his master says he can find no fault with him.

"I have heard the labourers say, 'We must not do as we have done; if we have work we must keep it, else we shall be separated from our wives and families.' This is remarkable in my district.

"When I first took office, the parishioners were afraid of their labourers; now they are civil and obliging. My district was one of the worst in the county of Kent, and most of the disturbances in the county have arisen here. When I commenced I was frequently threatened; now they treat me with the greatest respect; and when they have got into difficulty they have come to ask me for advice; for the last three months I have not heard an angry word or an uncivil expression from any pauper."

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Improvement in the Character of the Labourer.

I have received innumerable statements respecting the improved character and disposition of the labourers, and the forecast they now exhibit, some of which I will mention. The chairman of the Bridge Union says, "Labourers generally are incredibly improved in their behaviour, and exhibit greater satisfaction within my sphere of action."

Mr. Wildish, Isle of Thanet relieving officer, in reply to my question, whether the conduct of the paupers had improved since he began to administer relief, says, "Yes, considerably. Having had an opportunity of witnessing the conduct of paupers for the last seven years, I can vouch for the fact; when I first went among them as relieving officer, I was attended, the first two or three times, by the parish officers. At that time the conduct of the paupers, as far as threats and abuse go, was very bad; such as excited in the minds of the officers a degree of fear as to the consequences that might ensue; but, having only one course to pursue, and being firm in the same, this obstacle is entirely removed, and the conduct and behaviour of the paupers towards me, as relieving officer, has wonderfully improved. How far the plan of having the parish officers present the first two or three times with the relieving officer may be advisable, I will not take upon me to say, but of this I am certain, that a relieving officer will do his business much better, in less time, and more peaceably alone, than when any other officer is present. The reason I assign for this is, when there is more than one present, the paupers are disposed to view it in the light of a board, having control over the amount of relief to be given. I am persuaded that a relieving officer under the new system will have greater weight, and much more command over the paupers, than the parish officers under the old system possibly could. I have been surprised to see the very men whom I have heard abuse and threaten the parish officers, while sitting in committee under the old system, come to me with the greatest civility."

The vice-chairman of the Eastry Union relates the following fact: "An extensive miller, a highly respectable person, stated to me some months since, that it had long been a practice with many of the labourers to sell their gleanings of wheat when their families had done leasing: the wheat being sold, first, in the quantities obtained by individual families, to bakers, who disposed of it to the miller. My informant having an extensive connexion, purchased much of such gleaned wheat from the bakers with whom he deals, averaging as much as 25 to 27 quarters annually, during the preceding six or seven years. I think he stated having bought 35 quarters after the harvest of 1834.

"After the harvest of last year (1835), the quantity of wheat so purchased by him was only 18 bushels. He was at a loss to account for so great a diminution, and remarking his surprise thereat to a baker in one of the parishes of the Eastry Union (Ash), the latter replied, that but little of the gleaned wheat of last harvest was sold, that the wives of the labourers had said they kept their wheat now, as they could not go to their parish as formerly. Relief, though not then stopped, was much curtailed. Therefore, when their husbands had or were in work, they purchased their bread; when unemployed, they used their gleaned wheat, making their own bread, which many brought to him to be baked; and opening his oven door, he pointed to several parcels, saying one belonged to *A*, another to *B*, and so on, mentioning names familiar to my informant."

This explanation very satisfactorily showed the cause of purchasing so little gleaned wheat last year, and is, assuredly, a positive proof of provident management, resulting from the new poor law.

The chairman of the Romney Marsh Union, says, "The good labourers are well-satisfied and well-behaved, and my opinion is, that the great end of placing the industrious independent labourer in a higher and better situation than the improvident pauper, being fully obtained, the pauperized and ill-disposed, finding resistance utterly useless, will see the necessity of reforming themselves. But that a great change of opinion must previously be effected, not only amongst the labourers, but some of the classes above them, the following case will prove. A short time before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, I was informed, as a matter of conversation, by the assistant-overseer of a parish within the Union, that, on the evening preceding, he had been in company at the farmer's club with a non-resident pauper, who was receiving 10*s.* a week from the poor-rate, and who had come down on business, and also to receive a supposed arrear of this relief. The assistant-overseer and this man remained smoking and drinking later than the rest, and when the assistant-overseer was quitting the room, he was called back by the pauper, who informed him that he must have his pay that night, as he was going to start by the coach early the next morning. A dispute arose as to the amount, and the affair, in consequence, came to my knowledge, otherwise I probably should not have known it, as it never appeared to have occurred to the parish officers and respectable inhabitants of the parish who were present, that there was the least impropriety in the pauper's conduct. Indeed, when part of this relief was afterwards withdrawn, the churchwarden (the pauper's brother-in-law), strongly, and with some acrimony, urged his claim to its continuance.

"I have, in the same parish, been present at a vestry, when a farmer, who occupied more than one farm, and to my knowledge paid for one farm a yearly rent of nearly 100 *l.*, and was also a coal merchant, attended to strengthen and urge the claims of two of his own sons for relief."

Diminution of Beer-shops and Drunkenness.

That drunkenness has much diminished is positively certain, from the lamentation of the falling off of their trade by the beer-shop-keepers, who complain now, almost as universally as they were complained of before by other classes of the community. On this point, the chairman of the Isle of Thanet Union, says, "Beer-houses have diminished, not in number, but

but in business. The proprietors of public-houses and beer-shops are loud in their complaints. Formerly, the return of Saturday night was the signal for drunkenness and uproar, and the peaceable inhabitants of our villages were constantly disturbed by pauper revellings. I am assured, on good authority, that these abuses are, in a great degree, remedied. The streets are now comparatively quiet. The pauper receives half of his relief in kind, and therefore wants the money to purchase other articles of food; the labourer is learning to be thrifty, that he may be prepared for loss of employment. A publican in the Union, residing in the parish for which we have effected the greatest saving, has now so little to do, that he has purchased a donkey and cart, with a view to obtain employment as a carrier, and thus make up the deficiency in his resources."

The chairman of the East Ashford Union, says, "A beer-house in Wye parish was closed within one week after relief was given to the paupers in kind, nor has it been opened since. The receipts of most, if not all others, have materially fallen off."

The Rev. P. Harvey, magistrate in the Penshurst Union, says, "In my neighbourhood there were four beer-shops, to say nothing of ale-houses. I will not declaim against them, as the concurrent voice of even sots themselves has done that. Three have sunk to rise no more; the other totters on its last legs. A friend of mine was in company, a short time ago, with a distiller, at a party in a neighbouring town, when it was proposed to have a glass of brandy and water; my friend declined, and was much rallied as to temperance societies. After a while, he said to the distiller, "Have these societies hurt your trade?" "Oh, no," said he, "but I tell you what has, your confounded new poor laws."

The chairman of the Romney Marsh Union says, "There are not many beer-shops within this Union, and I am not aware that their number has diminished, but I have reason to suppose that their custom has decreased, from the following conversation with a perfectly independent and very industrious labourer in my own employment, who told me, 'that he did not intend to deceive anybody, and was glad enough to see how it was going to be under the new poor laws;' that its effects would be felt more in the public-houses and beer-shops than by the shop-keepers, for although he did not often go to public-houses, he had formerly been occasionally, and seen 'them (*i. e.*, the paupers,) sitting like gentlemen, with their shoes blacked and their pipes in their mouths;' that he had looked in on the Saturday preceding, and there was no one there. 'Thinks I,' adds this man, 'you must now do as I have always been obliged to do; you must consider whether you can afford to pay for a pot of beer before you drink it.'"

The chairman of the Milton Union says, "I only know of two that have been given up in this Union, but all the ale-house keepers complain that their custom is 'very different from what it used to be,' and the brewers, who are the owners of these pot-houses, are, generally speaking, most opposed to the change. No better proof can be given of its efficacy."

The surgeon of the Milton Union says, "There is one beer-house in the parish of Borden just shut up, and within the last year I know of two others, and I know they are, in the majority, losing concerns. Take the following case in illustration; I pledge myself for the truth of it, as the parties are well known to me. The publican to the spirit-merchant, "I say, Sir, we had a house full of people on Saturday night, and, before that rascally poor law came into operation, we should have taken from such a company 5*l.*, but we took but 25*s.*'"

G. Bailey, Hollingbourn relieving officer, in answer to the question, whether there is any complaint among the beer-shops, says, "Yes, decidedly, to a very great degree; they lay it all entirely to the poor law," and William Fishenden, Sheppey relieving officer, answers to the same question, "A very great deal of complaint; they (beer-shop keepers) declaim against the poor law. One beer-shop has been shut up in Eastchurch, one in the country part of Minster, two in Sheerness."

The chairman of the Faversham Union states on this subject, "Beer-houses have been much diminished in the Union. In the towns and villages a degree of quiet, compared with former times, is very visible in the evenings, when scenes of revelry and riot used constantly to assail the ears of the casual passengers. Upon the whole, I feel convinced that a great moral change is gradually taking place in the labouring classes. The prudent and well-deserving will be able to find employment, and good conduct will inevitably be adhered to, as the only certain means of raising the character of those who have hitherto been voluntary paupers."

The bastardy clauses of the Poor Law Amendment Act have hardly been in operation a sufficient time, nor been generally enough understood, to produce all the moral good expected from them. The reduction, however, in the number of illegitimate children, is sufficiently remarkable to deserve especial notice. In the North Aylesford Union, the clerk, who is also clerk to the magistrates, states, that before the Union, scarcely a week passed without a case of bastardy coming before the magistrates, while there had been only two applications on this score since the Union commenced. The Sheppey relieving officer observes, "We have only had three applications since the Union, which has now been in operation a year and a half; they have all been received into the workhouse. We used to have 12 a year, on the average, in Minster alone."

To my question on the effect of the bastardy regulations, the Milton chairman replies, "It is still difficult to reply to this question by any statement of facts, but as far as the opinion of every farmer goes, with whom I have conversed on the subject, it is working well. They say, 'Now the parents find they must take care of the bastard, or let their child go to the workhouse, they take more care of their daughters.' This is a part of the Act which must require time to develope its effects, and it will take effect principally on the generation now growing up. The females will find that being pregnant is not the way to get married, and

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the men themselves will grow up with more moral and honourable feelings. That it will banish illegitimacy entirely cannot be supposed, but it will inevitably put a stop to that wholesale cottage prostitution, which induced young women to become pregnant (and in many cases the more illegitimate children they had the better) in order to get a husband. It has also put a stop to that horrible system of every day perjury, which had become so common that it has ceased to appear a crime. In this Union, only three cases of bastardy came before the board of guardians in the first year. There have been two more since the 20th of March. I am not able to state positively the proportion this bears to former years, but I think I am within the mark when I say the crime (as far as it is chargeable to the parish) decreased 50 per cent."

The Sevenoaks chairman replies, "I cannot speak so confidently of the moral effects of the bastardy clauses of the bill. This Union having been formed but a twelvemonth, and but few cases having come under our notice, very little has been effected by way of example. We have had a very decided diminution in the number of illegitimate children within the last year as compared with the former ones, and I have not the slightest doubt but that time will prove that the clauses in question, as well as the whole bill, are founded on the soundest principles of legislation, as well as on an intimate knowledge of human nature and the springs of human action."

The late River chairman states, "The bastardy regulations have been productive of the most salutary effects. The instant relieving officers were appointed, the board discontinued all allowance to illegitimate children, considering that a prompt execution of that part of the new law would at once awaken alarm and induce propriety of conduct; nor have they been deceived. Only two bastards have been born in the Union within the last four months, (the relief was stopped twelve months since) nor has a case of infanticide occurred."

The Romney Marsh chairman says, "I believe that scarcely a case of bastardy has occurred within this Union since its establishment, although previously it was very prevalent. All relief was very early refused to the mothers of bastards, and the workhouse was offered them. It is unnecessary for me to add, that although we have only old and insufficient workhouses, hardly one woman availed herself of this offer."

The Isle of Thanet chairman writes, "The effect of the bastardy clauses has been to diminish bastardy and lessen the expenses of maintaining existing bastards. The weekly pensions heretofore paid have been discontinued in all cases in which the money has not been repaid by the father; and if application for relief has been subsequently made, an order for the workhouse has immediately been issued, which has commonly settled the question, as in only one or two cases has the order been obeyed."

The chairman of the East Ashford Union says, "The bastardy regulations have proved a very important check to the birth of illegitimate children, as the new laws have been to improvident marriages. I learn that only two marriages took place last Michaelmas at Ashford, when hitherto there have usually been eight or ten."

The Faversham chairman states, "The bastardy clause has been the means of diminishing considerably the number of illegitimate children, and the improvident marriages which so frequently occurred two years ago, are now rarely to be heard of."

As the workhouse forms so essential a feature of the new system, its interior arrangements and discipline are matters of supereminent importance. Among these the provision for spiritual instruction seems to me of primary utility; and where there is only one workhouse in a Union, as is the case everywhere in East Kent, but in Romney Marsh, this service is generally, by the appointment of a paid chaplain, performed with an efficiency that deserves our warmest approbation. The following is an account given by the chairman, of the religious instruction imparted in Eastry workhouse, and it holds good generally for all the others. "In this establishment divine worship is never omitted; grace is always said at meals; morning and evening prayers are daily read, with a portion of scripture. On the sabbath all who are not invalids assemble in the commodious chapel within the precincts, which is built to accommodate 300 persons, where divine service, according to the rites of the established church, is duly and piously celebrated by the appointed chaplain, who not only gives them a sermon on that day, but generally one on Tuesday in each week. Bibles and prayer-books are liberally bestowed, the sick are visited, and every facility given to religious instruction."

A book is always kept at the workhouse, in which the chaplain enters the time of each visit, and also any observations that may occur to him on the religious and moral condition of the inmates. I give below a few extracts selected at random from the chaplains' books, in order to show the good effects of the management.

"The attendance of the inmates of the establishment at the chapel has been such as to deserve his marked approbation, having conducted themselves invariably with great quietness and order, and remarkable apparent attention."—(Extract from the Eastry chaplain's book.)

"With respect to the moral and religious state of the inmates generally, I should say, as far as I have the power of judging, that my report should be considered favourable. During divine service I have discovered no levity, but rather, on the contrary, I have always remarked quiet and attention at chapel. On other occasions I have met with no disinclination on the part of the inmates to listen to what I have to say.

	No. of Communicants.
February 7th	17
Easter Day	14
May 29th	15

(signed) "*G. B. Twining*,
"Chaplain to the Faversham Workhouse."
"June 8th.

"June 8th.—Catechised the children, boys and girls, and was very much pleased. The master and mistress of the schools deserve praise for their attention. I beg to recommend the 18/9 testaments for the use of the schools. Performed divine service in the evening.

(signed) "*H. Bowman*,
"Chaplain to the Sheppy workhouse."

Dietary.

Great advantage has been found to accrue in the way of suppressing discontent by the establishment of a uniform dietary throughout the county. This Dietary, No. 2, was determined on last year, at a meeting of the chairmen and vice-chairmen of all the Unions then formed in Kent, to the number of 11, at whose request you ordered it to be introduced; it has since been established in every workhouse in the 26 Unions in this county, and has now been observed for more than a year in East Kent without complaint. On its first introduction, many of the guardians exclaimed against it as too low. In these cases I have recommended the complainants to test it, by trying it on themselves; this has been done in several instances, and always with the result of satisfying the most incredulous of its sufficiency.*

Improved condition of Children.

One of the most pleasing and popular results of the management in Union workhouses arises from the care that is taken of the orphan and destitute children. The change in their condition, when compared with what it was before the formation of Unions, is the most gratifying that can be imagined. Formerly, ill-clothed, ill-kept, uneducated, they were turned out to form the germ of future paupers, and to become the worst members of society. In fact, to have been brought up in a workhouse was usually considered a blot in a labourer's character, and an obstacle to his getting employment. The change from this state of things is now so thorough and complete, so precisely the contrary of what it was before, that the spectacle of this glaring improvement alone seems to reconcile many persons, otherwise hostile, to the new system. "Our children's workhouse," writes to me a magistrate in the Penshurst Union, "has been the least unpopular thing in our Union." "The youth of both sexes," says the chairman of the Eastry Union, "are not only healthy, but happy. They are in their respective schools six hours each day, and have such advantages of instruction as they could not have possibly had under their improvident parents. These are indeed invaluable benefits, as they will be trained to be useful and good members of society, instead of adding to the future mass of human misery and depravity." In the Hollingbourn Union, the guardians have by the munificence of one of the magistrates, been enabled to send their schoolmaster to the 'Children's Friend Society's schools,' near London, to be trained in the method of instruction adopted in that excellent institution, where the children are taught various species of useful labour. "I have had many women coming to thank me," says G. Bailey, Hollingbourn relieving officer, "for taking their children away from them; they have been to see their children, and see they are so much better contented and better off. Some of them have had liberty to take their children out, and they have refused to do so, because they say it will make them discontented; they are so much better kept than at home." In the North Aylesford Union, the children are so excellently brought up, that they have obtained a high character in the neighbourhood, and the master is overwhelmed with applications for servants from the workhouse. He has at the present time upwards of 20 applications that he cannot comply with. Formerly a workhouse was the exact place which any one seeking a servant would avoid; now several persons have mentioned to me their intention of always taking their servants from the workhouse.

The rapidity with which this pleasing change has been brought about, may appear extraordinary, but it is the natural effect of cutting off the children from every source of corruption, and placing them in a state where nothing harmful can reach them. The Children's Friend Society at Hackney Wick takes the most depraved characters from the streets of London, and in a short time, by means of strict discipline and education, converts them into honest and useful members of the community. This is precisely what is done in the best conducted Unions; the children removed from the possibility of contamination, undergo a thorough change of disposition; three months' education in a well conducted workhouse, as I have frequently heard it remarked, is worth to the children almost as many years of such instruction as they can get at home, by attending village schools.

Home Migration.

From several parts of the county, families have migrated to the manufacturing districts, where they seem generally to have obtained treble and quadruple the wages they were earning in Kent. The letters they have sent to their friends give such favourable accounts of their changed circumstances, that they will doubtless attract northward a large proportion of the Kentish population, if the present demand for labour in this county, stimulated as it now will be by the south eastern railway, does not cause a deficiency of hands here. The following is one of the letters sent home by a migrant to Lancashire from Lenham:—

"To

* Since the above was written, further testimony, the most unimpeachable, has been given to the fitness of this dietary for the purpose in view. At a meeting at Canterbury, on the 26th July, of the chairman and vice-chairman of all the twelve East Kent Unions, this subject, among others, was discussed, when it was the unanimous opinion of the meeting, that after more than a year's trial this dietary had answered exceedingly well, and that no alteration was desirable.

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" To Mr. Geo. Ware, sen., Lenham, Kent.

" Dear Father and Mother,

" I am glad to say we arrived safe on Thursday the 10th, and find every thing according to our expectation; and I myself am following two horses for Mr. Harris, and the children love the factory better than we expected they would; and if George had come, he would not have had to gone into the factory. If he come here he may have 4*s.* per week and his maintenance, and if my brother John would like to come with you, there is plenty of work for him, 2*s.* 6*d.* per day, on the railway, and if he does not like that, there is plenty of other work, and my wife can cook and wash for him. Six of the children was readily taken into a Sunday-school first Sabbath, and we have to thank God we are come into a country where there is Gospel preached on week days and Sundays too; and I hope you will let Mary see this letter, and when we write again we will write to Mary, and she must do the same; and we wish George to let his aunt Gillett see this letter; and if you come, you may come by Pickford's boat from London to Manchester, which is 31 miles to Preston, where you are to come to, and when you get to Preston, enquire for Walhan Factory, and there you will get to know were we are; and we got well used on coming, both by rich and poor, and we have got nothing but good behaviour yet. When you write, direct to Mr. G. C. Harris, Walham Factory, near Preston, Lancashire, and give our love to our relations and inquiring friends. So no more at present.

" Your beloved son,
(signed) " *George Ware.*

" *P. S.*—Now to the poor of Lenham, this is to let you know there is plenty of work, if you wish to come with large families; there is work for all. This is truth.

" Please to give this letter to William Cork, to tell Mr. W. Powell, that he discharged us for the good of the family, and he has done it. I thank him kindly.

" Your's,
(signed) " *Geo. Ware.*"

The following letter from the Rev. S. Harvey, magistrate in the Penshurst Union, describes the operation of the Poor Law in that Union, which was one of the first formed in the county.

" My dear Sir,

" I should be sorry, in replying to your letter, to allow my own opinions and observations so to influence my judgment as to attribute to the Poor Law Amendment Act more than may justly belong to it, and I keep in view that these two last years have been very productive in the Weald, and consequently that a large fund of labour has been created for the labourers throughout winter. But I shall say with the utmost confidence that the Bill has produced beneficial effects. It has lessened the rates, thereby extending the means of employing honest labour; it has already shown its effects on the moral feeling of the labourer and is, in fact, showing him that a dependence on himself, if his labour be free in the market, is the most satisfactory mode of maintaining his family. I shall here say that the old fashioned labourer of the Weald never did like the system of making up wages from the poor book, but the short sighted policy of the farmer drove all men, who had no friendly employer, on the rates, and in fact verified the justification of that overseer who said, 'Why I try as much as any man to keep down our rates, for I set every man, who comes to me, to work, and pay them out of the poor book.' " Well, but my good friend "—" Why, sir, did not you gents urge us to employ all the poor: how can I please you?"

" Labourers are really scarcer than has been known for years. I heard a gentleman's bailiff say, he could not get hands to cut his hay, which was wanting to be cut.

" I myself observed the hop grounds of a person who had notoriously dug them cheap at parish labour (as a favour) for some years, go undug in great parts, though I know he was seeking hands around, as he asked if, in our parish, we had any out of employ, and finally did get three hands of that description whom no one cares to employ, but which have been made by the old system in every rural parish.

" Hands being a little scarce in the spring, good masters began to look out, and this imperceptibly caused a great demand in the market, thereby restoring things to a proper position, that is all: but this the Bill effected, for the wiser men were, the more they held back, coquetted with the overseer to get hands of him, and never openly went into the labour market, because if they did, whilst they gave 12*s.* for a man by hire, their neighbour gave 6*s.* from the overseer for a better: who can wonder they held back?

" I hear the men say jeeringly, 'How is it that so and so,' naming those who held perpetual offices, 'have no hands now, whilst so and so,' naming those who never took such billeted men, 'go on as formerly.' The labourers are finding out that the Bill, by its even handed justice, is placing them in fair competition; and, as the great desire to please is admitted on all hands, it is a natural effect in my mind, not abject fear of losing a place, but a feeling, 'I am again in my right position with my master, and, if he is good to me, I will serve him well.'

" The managers of the stone pits at Westerham, as an act of civility and kindness, came to me, and said, 'You generally want some stone fit for private use, let me put 10 or 20 cords by for you, for I can get no stone-diggers.' Now this was a parish resource for which we envied them, and all hands were turned off at times to go there.

" There

" There are many who could not, some who do not, see the injury of that system of paying 1 *s.* or 1 *s.* 6 *d.* with parish children, but to men of common sense and honesty that is perfectly clear. The very unjust system of turning a regular hand off in bad weather is done with; I believe it is half shamed out of the country. I have openly said to men, 'I would leave any master the first opportunity who served me so.' The horrors of the old system daily become more hateful to memory; but really it is surprising how a nation could entrust six millions to be laid out by such ignorant, yet crafty, men, as had got its management; but I well know that quiet men were so insulted in old vestries, they could not go to them. There are some few men, who have lost power and profit, who still do their little to abuse the Bill, and render it hateful to the poor; but they are so clearly the 'old men,' that it will not do, and I think you observed, when I said a large farmer (who was free of all this, except the loss of power), cased in a tenfold covering of fat, had said, 'I hate this Bill every day more and more, the more I see of it the more I hate it,' 'that such a man would soon be worth a morning's ride as a curiosity,' and you said truly. I will not take this opportunity of enlarging on it; but I must add here, we have one great want, it is that cottages should be lowered to a just rent. It is really a small boon to ask this, but it is so unjust to see a little farm and house let at 30 *l.*, the house divided into two or three tenements, at 10 *l.* or 12 *l.* per annum each, that it is an imperative duty to landlords to take the cottages, regulate and restrict their lettings. The poor cannot emancipate themselves from this, but through the landlords. Primarily do, I entreat you, impress this on all.

" You may justly say, that the Bill has effected the ground-work of improvement. I shall watch the laying out of the 'hopping money,' as my test; it has been usual to get down 'hoppery goods', to transfer the money in exchange for finery and trumpery into the shopkeeper's hands; and a peasant girl, like a fine lady, has her wants, and her little coquetries. Now let us see this year how it is laid out. It shall be the test.

" I must lastly own the bastardy clause has not worked much good yet; it is very imperfectly understood, for it is supposed, 'the gentlemen can swear a child now if they will;' but some poor girls have been much 'put out' to find the true state of things. And to say the truth, we do not quite in our feelings come into the idea, 'that the man is to get off,' although the ultimate benefit of this clause is perhaps as sure as any in the Bill; yet, it is not quite the feelings under which men were brought up, though abused it was under the old system, beyond calculation or belief. It is not possible but pressure must be somewhere, in a change of system so great as this, but there has been wonderfully little, for the feelings and sympathies of residents of all classes have been called forth to aid and employ those who were likely to suffer by the change, and thus have in the most legimitate and desirable mode relieved it.

" I have forgotten to say, that formerly about May men were most out of work; this year I may truly say, very few, if any, were out of work. We are, in fact, finding out that poverty does not exist in this county, it was a phantom magnified by ignorance and fear.

" Believe me, &c.

" *Thos. Harvey.*"

Attention of the Guardians.

The guardians in general pay the most laborious attention to their duties; many of them having to take a journey of 20 miles to the place of meeting, and still never fail in their weekly attendance. Several of the boards, as might be expected, are unwilling to act up strictly to the spirit of the regulations, sometimes from mistaken feelings of humanity, at others from mistaken views of their interests. I doubt not that in the long run, the dictates of their interest and of true humanity will always be found to coincide, but the effects that have been produced have so exceeded expectation, that it is not be wondered at if guardians are slow to believe, till experience has convinced them, that your regulations for relief will operate neither harshly to the poor nor injuriously to themselves. Still the non-adherence to the letter of the regulations produces a very injurious effect, an instance of which the following complaint, which I have received from the Romney Marsh chairman will show: " I cannot help expressing my regret that the Poor Law Commissioners have not more peremptorily insisted on the strict observance of their rules and regulations, from which, excellent as they are, I have not seen cause for any deviation, since they provide exceptions in all cases where exceptions are at all admissible. When the notion is once entertained that deviation is allowed, many guardians and officers are disposed to exercise their own discretion; influenced as this discretion too often is by their previous prejudices and practice, thereby taking on themselves an onerous responsibility which does not belong to them, producing want of uniformity in the proceedings of neighbouring Unions, hesitation and want of confidence among well disposed guardians and officers, and much additional discontent among the paupers.

" The regulations refusing relief to non-resident able-bodied male paupers, between the ages of 16 and 60, has perhaps been more evaded than any other. Although making use of three old and insufficient workhouses, this regulation has been strictly acted up to within this Union, and with the very best results, only one pauper having come home with his family and entered the workhouse, and he very shortly returned to the place from whence he came. As this man had only previously received 2 *s.* a week, I have reason to believe that his entering the workhouse was the result of a sort of conspiracy to try the constancy of the guardians with respect to this regulation. But that great abuses had previously prevailed in this method of giving relief, the case of the non-resident pauper above-mentioned, and which might be accompanied by many others, will sufficiently evince. I will mention the following case as an instance of the inexpediency of deviating from this regulation. I was informed by the relieving officer, that much discontent prevailed in this

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Union, because an able-bodied labourer, between the ages of 16 and 60, residing in this Union, and belonging elsewhere, received 9*s.* 6*d.* a week from his parish. I doubted this from the following circumstance: This man's wife had been employed as a washerwoman, and received 1*l.* 1*s.* a week from one family. Early in last winter she went to her employer and informed her that their parish pay of 4*s.* 6*d.* a week was withdrawn, and the workhouse offered them, and that therefore she (her employer) must give her 4*s.* a week more, or she would give up the washing and go home. She ultimately agreed for 1*l.* 3*s.* a week, and was satisfied, and apparently did very well. But much later in the winter, it appears that they made a second application, on what plea I know not, and were allowed 9*s.* 6*d.* a week. In the language of the woman 'the gentlemen had been very good to them.' I think I need not add that this relief was entirely unnecessary, and that the original offer of the workhouse had at once dispauperized this family."

Abuses of poor-rates checked.

So thoroughly engrafted on the habits of the people was the old system of giving relief illegally, that even yet the 43d Eliz. is frequently broken, and occasionally startling remnants of the results of old abuses are seen. In the Sevenoaks Union, two cottages were lately sold, one of which was tenanted by a pauper, who had been in the receipt of relief 20 years, and had frequently summoned the parish officers before the magistrates for refusing to give him what he considered himself entitled to, when, to the astonishment of everybody, the cottages were bought by the pauper himself. "On going through the weekly relief," says the Romney Marsh chairman, "I was stopped at the first name in one parish by the relieving officer, who gravely remarked, that he thought that man could do without so much relief, as his wife was at the grand fancy masquerade ball last night (the price of admission to this ball being 3*s.* or 4*s.*)." In going over the Margate relief-book, that town being lately added to the Isle of Thanet Union, the guardians had to strike off the names of some proprietors of houses of ill-fame, who were receiving weekly pensions. One woman with four children, who was a market gardener, and paid a rent of 35*l.* per annum, was getting from the parish 4*s.* weekly. These, however, and all other abuses will, I expect, shortly be matters of history.

Favourable change in support of the new law.

The changed feelings of all classes in favour of the new poor law, even among those who were its most violent opponents, is very remarkable. "I have been told," writes the vice-chairman of Eastry Union," by the guardian of Barfreston, who resides in Nonington, that the tradesmen in the rural parishes in its vicinity who were much prejudiced and exclaimed against the new poor law, anticipating decrease of trade therefrom, that contrary to their expectations they find the labourers' families spend as much with them as formerly, paying more promptly and requiring less credit, or indeed none. The tradesmen admit that they have imbibed erroneous opinions as to the working of the new law, and that it is a beneficial measure."

The chairman of the Milton Union also says, "At the commencement bakers and small shopkeepers and shoemakers were the most decided in their opposition, from the idea that there would be less money to lay out, but they now find that this was a foolish dread, and that their business has improved instead of growing worse, because bad debts are not so common, and the less a man spends in the beer-shop, the more his wife can have to spend at the village shop in necessary articles for her family."

But by far, to me at least, the most gratifying testimony to the wisdom of the Poor Law Amendment Act, arises from the numerous supporters it now reckons among those of the higher classes, who were at first its strongest opponents. These are persons above the suspicion of being actuated by interested motives, and who assuredly would not support any system that contravened the true principles of justice, humanity and sound policy. Among many similar instances of confessions of conversion that I have received, I select the following. In March of last year the Isle of Thanet Union was declared, which included within it the parish of St. Peter's. This parish made a violent opposition to the Union; public meetings were held, petitions were drawn up against it, and in this opposition the principal lead was taken by Mr. Cramp, the present able chairman of the Isle of Thanet Union. In April 1835, he writes: "We are unanimous against the Union; there is no difference of opinion amongst us; there is but one feeling on the subject." In June 1836, he writes me the following candid and honourable history of his change of sentiment: "In March 1835, when a vestry meeting was held to nominate persons for the overseer's office, my name was placed on the list to be presented to the magistrates for their choice, and it was generally expected and understood that I should receive the appointment. Two days afterwards the order of the Poor Law Commissioners arrived, constituting the Isle of Thanet Union, and declaring the parish of St. Peter's a member of that Union. As I had been willing to act as overseer, in order to promote the interests of the parish, and it appeared that the opportunity of doing so was wholly taken away by the junction of the parish with the Union, inasmuch as the overseers would have little or nothing to do with the relief to the poor, I requested the magistrates to pass over my name, with which request they were so kind as to comply. A very general, and I may say, universal opposition to the proposed Union existed in the parish. I was carried away by the tide of feeling, and zealously assisted the parish officers in organising a series of measures intended to procure, if possible, a withdrawment of the parish from the Union. We held several private meetings on the subject; we visited the other parishes in the Isle of Thanet, with the view to induce them to join in the opposition; and we convened a public meeting of the inhabitants, which was numerously attended, and at which a memorial to the Poor Law Commissioners was adopted and subsequently signed by all the principal rate-payers, praying to be left to ourselves, and promising to work out the principles of the Poor Law Amendment Act in our separate state. I need not say that our memorial was unsuccessful. I may add, however,

however, that a large proportion of those who signed it are now heartily glad that they did not succeed.

"It is scarcely necessary to mention the objections which we stated against the new measure, or the arguments by which they were supported. Suffice it to say, that they were founded in ignorance or misapprehension. We participated in the strong prejudice which then prevailed against the Poor Law Amendment Act, and were, I must confess, more ready to denounce its provisions as harsh and unfeeling, without troubling ourselves with inquiry, than to calmly examine the subject. In such a state of mind we too willingly gave credit to the flying reports of the day, and were more likely to misconceive and misconstrue the act and the orders and regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners, than to form just conclusions. We imagined, for instance, that all out-door relief to the able-bodied would be instantly stopped, and loud and pathetic were the complaints uttered against a policy which we deemed cruel in the extreme. I remember too, that in the speech which I delivered in support of the memorial above alluded to, I dwelt at some length on the evils which it appeared to me would follow the transference of the management of the poor from the overseers, their neighbours and natural protectors, to a board composed of persons most of whom would be strangers to them, and therefore not likely to exercise much commiseration. I did not sufficiently consider that there are duties to be performed to the rate-payers and the public as well as to the poor, and that the board of guardians would be composed of gentlemen, whose respectability and intelligence would ensure the exercise of a wise judgment, and who, while they would be above the influence of pauper intimidation, would in all probability be rather distinguished by a tenderness of feeling than deficient in that excellent quality.

"When the time came for the election of guardians, no one was willing to undertake the office, so completely had prejudice, not unmingled with fear, warped the opinions and influenced the minds of men. At almost the last moment allowed by law, I found it necessary to come forward rather than suffer the parish to be unrepresented. When the board was constituted, I was chosen vice-chairman. By the sudden death of the chairman, which occurred in the ensuing autumn, his office devolved on me for the remainder of the year, and at the first meeting of the board appointed for the present year, I was unanimously requested to take the chair. I have regularly attended the meetings of the board. In fact, my place has been vacant but twice, on both which occasions I was in London. This is mentioned to show that I have had full opportunity of observing the operation of the new system. I shall now proceed to detail briefly the result of my experience.

"Ignorance and misapprehension, it has been already stated, were the chief sources of opposition to the measures of the Poor Law Commissioners. The explanations given by Sir Francis Head, under whose management the Unions in this district were formed, and the instructions which were from time to time furnished by the Poor Law Commissioners, in answer to our applications and inquiries, dissipated remaining doubt, and led me, not merely to submit, but to employ my energies in zealous co-operation. In a short time I began to take much interest in my new engagement. As the measures and intentions of the Poor Law Commissioners were developed, I perceived with increasing satisfaction the solid principles and sound discretion manifested in the construction of the new system. The inhumanity which had been so industriously denounced as distinguishing the system, vanished on close inspection, and on the contrary, the conviction was produced that the Poor Law Amendment Act is the kindest and best measure for the relief of the poor ever passed by the British Legislature. Not, indeed, that the idle and dissolute, if they remain so, will be benefited by it, or be able, as before, to extort a maintenance by deception or threats, and fatten on public alms. Their time is gone by. They must cease to be idle and dissolute, or submit to the alternative of the workhouse. A salutary dread of that abode has already produced astonishing effects, and converted many a vagabond into an industrious man. But the independent labourer will derive incalculable advantage. The former management offered a premium to idleness and improvidence; there was no inducement to thriftiness, no stimulus to enterprize. As soon as a man was out of employ, he was tempted to fall back upon his parish, and was taught to expect that all his wants would be supplied, without any efforts to disengage himself from his condition. Now the case is altered; by the gradual diminution and final refusal of relief to the able-bodied, except in the workhouse, they are compelled to acquire habits of industry, sobriety and economy, that they make provision for any temporary loss of employment. The spare pence that were too often squandered at the public-house or beer-shop, or otherwise lavishly disposed of, must now be reserved for the rainy day. If work fails in the parish or immediate locality to which he is attached, the labourer must go farther a-field, and be willing to get work wherever he can find it. Instances illustrative of this statement are continually occurring. 'Give us work' is now the cry, 'we care not where we go, if we can but get work.' A healthy state of feeling is thus in course of production, to which the peasantry of England, as a body, have long been strangers.

"It tended powerfully to reconcile me to the new system, when I ascertained that no restrictions would be imposed on the due exercise of humanity towards the sick, the infirm, and the aged. These classes necessarily demand our kind and tender consideration; and I may safely appeal to the records of the board, over which I have the honour to preside, in proof of the assertion that sickness and age have always been regarded in preferring especial claims on our benevolence, and justifying a liberal administration of the funds entrusted to our care.

"In reference to these cases, and to some others of an extraordinary nature, it is an excellent feature of the new arrangements, that while a sufficient degree of discretion is enjoyed by

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Report of
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the boards of guardians, they are able, whenever it appears requisite, to fortify their decisions by appealing to the instructions and orders of the Poor Law Commissioners, to whose authority they are bound to submit without reserve. It is sometimes desirable to relieve themselves in this manner from responsibility, and refer to a higher power.

"Connecting with these considerations the plans for securing medical attendance, and the provision made for the education of the children, and the religious instruction of the inmates of the workhouse (with one exception, which I will presently mention), I have arrived at the conclusion that the present system is wise, salutary and humane, and admirably calculated to improve the character and habits of the poor, and elevate them in the scale of society. I can cheerfully subscribe to the opinion expressed in my hearing the other day by a gentleman whose whole time is employed in the service of one of the most valuable of the benevolent institutions of our country, and who avowed his persuasion that the Poor Law Amendment Act will prove most beneficial, in a moral point of view, of all the enactments of modern times. With these sentiments and feelings I acceded to the unanimous request of the first board of guardians of the Isle of Thanet Union, that I would continue in office another year, in order to complete the work which we had begun, and to bring the economical and moral machinery of the system into full action.

"I have hinted at an objection. It has always been my opinion, that the clause respecting religious instruction is unfair and needlessly restrictive. Why should not the dissenting minister have free access to the workhouse at all times? why must he wait till he is actually sent for by an inmate? and when he is there, why should he be prevented from communicating instruction and consolation to others, and his attention be 'strictly confined' to those who are of his own persuasion? No such restrictions are laid on the clergyman; on the contrary, he is enjoined to record the moral and 'religious state of the inmates generally,' and generally 'to watch over the moral and religious conduct of all the individuals of the establishment.' I know that the paupers are not required to attend Divine Service, if they are dissenters; but if they are willing to receive the clergyman's instructions, he is not debarred from giving them. I can hardly suppose that the Legislature contemplated proselytism in a workhouse; yet even on that supposition the parties ought to be on equal ground. As it is, the clergyman may make dissenters churchmen, but the dissenter may not make the churchmen dissenters. This inequality of arrangement is much objected to by dissenters. Showing their sentiments on the subject, I have mentioned it in this communication, in the hope that some alteration will be made, even if it should be necessary to introduce a short Act for the purpose." (signed) "*J. M. Cramp.*"

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

E. Carleton Tufnell.

— No. 3. —

No. 3.
Report of
W. H. T. Hawley, Esq.

REPORT as to the Operation and Effects of the Poor Law Amendment Act, in the County of *Sussex*; by *William Henry Toovey Hawley*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Gentlemen, Hartfordbridge, 16 June 1836.

Subject of Report.

1. The completion of the late parochial year imposes upon me the duty of reporting the progress which has been made, in the county of Sussex, in carrying into operation the regulations which have from time to time been issued by your Board, for the purpose of establishing the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and the results which have followed their application.

Division of the subject into three heads.

2. In doing so it will be my purpose, first, to give a general and succinct account of the state of this district at the present juncture:

Secondly, to show the moral effect which has been developed by their operation upon the labouring classes.

And, thirdly, the effect which the new measures have produced in favour of the rate-payers, by diminishing the burden of the poor's-rates.

Distribution of the county into Unions.

3. The arrangements for apportioning the district into Unions were not completed before Michaelmas last. At that period the whole of the eastern division of the county was divided into 13 Unions, of which the greater number had come into operation as early as the 25th of March. Within the same period seven Unions had been formed in the western division, embracing the whole of that part of the county, with the exception of a small portion occupied by two incorporations, under the 22d Geo. 3, c. 83, and three or four parishes lying in their immediate vicinity. These incorporations still continue unsubjected to the provisions of the new law, and are mischievous, as examples to the newly-formed Unions which lie within the sphere of their influence. Such has been the result of their existence in this district, where a pertinacious adhesion to the mistaken principles upon which these incorporations are founded has baffled every attempt to bring about their voluntary dissolution; has consumed much of that time which would have been more profitably disposed of in other quarters, to the great detriment of the prosperity of their districts; and has been working mischief, by means of injurious comparisons, amongst the paupers of the neighbouring Unions.

4. In

Workhouse arrangement.

4. In obedience to your instructions, it has been one of my first duties, on the formation of new Unions, to take instant and effective measures for providing that great essential of the new law, a sufficiency of workhouse accommodation; and though the lateness of the season at which some of those more recently formed came into existence considerably retarded building operations, yet I am enabled to report to your Board, that in most instances these arrangements were carried into effect before the winter months; in others, where the preparations were unavoidably suspended or deferred, no inconvenience has arisen from the delay; and in the course of three months from the present time all will have been completed.

Appropriation of old, and building of new workhouses.

5. At the commencement of my proceedings I had endeavoured, as far as possible, to render the existing workhouses available for the purposes of the Union, with a view to economy and the more speedy provision of means for carrying out the intentions of the new law. There were also other reasons which prompted the adoption of this system; but experience, since obtained, has raised considerable doubts in my mind of the policy and soundness of these views; and I am now disposed to think that a divided establishment imposes a heavier charge on a Union than one central general workhouse, from the repairs which are continually recurring in numerous and dilapidated tenements, from the increase in the number of paid officers, from the multiplication of contracts, and the complication of accounts: it is also objectionable from the difficulty of supervision by the Assistant Commissioner of the district, and of the visiting committee of the Union; from all which, and many other defects, the latter is exempt; and under that impression, latterly, wherever practicable, I have recommended the erection of a new or the adaptation, by enlargement, of one of the old workhouses, for the general reception of the paupers of all classes. Workhouses of this description are established in the Westhampnett, Midhurst, Steyning, Eastbourne, Newhaven, West Firle, Hastings and Ticehurst Unions; in all others the system of a divided establishment has been adopted. Both systems have hitherto shown a similarity of practical effect produced upon the paupers who have become inmates of these establishments; and in all probability no visible difference, in this respect, will be produced, so long as a vigilant visiting committee and trustworthy and efficient officers shall preserve that strictness of discipline so essential to their good government.

Rules for the government of workhouses.

6. On the introduction of the regulations for new workhouses, it was difficult at first, with persons who had been accustomed to view the workhouse in any other light than as a test of the absolute destitution of the pauper, to convince them of the propriety and absolute necessity of a separation of the sexes. By some the measure was loudly declaimed against, as cruel and unjust; by others the dread of the irritation, which they asserted would be produced in the minds of the paupers, was advanced as a strong reason for their hostility to it. The clamour raised against this wholesome regulation has, however, (except when kept up for factious purposes) been entirely silenced by argument; and the conviction has been produced, that without it the preservation of order and decorum, within the walls of a workhouse, is perfectly impracticable; and the rule has been strictly adhered to in every workhouse throughout the district.

Errors created by persons judging by their own feelings the feelings of persons of a different rank.

7. That the paupers themselves entertained a much more indifferent feeling towards the measure than the persons of other classes, who were theoretically fighting their battle, the following anecdote will perhaps serve to illustrate: I was one day called upon, at the Eastbourne workhouse, to interfere in a commotion which had arisen on first carrying the measure of separation into effect. A pauper, of the name of Hook, who had been the ringleader in the disturbance, and most vociferous against the alleged cruelty of the law, was brought before me; he was also charged by the governor with constantly absenting himself from the Sunday service in the workhouse chapel. I examined him on the latter charge first, and asked him if he was a Dissenter; he replied, "No." I then requested him to tell me what inducement he could have to refuse to join in duties so essential to his present and future welfare; he replied, "I'm not going there to hear that fellow, (meaning the chaplain). I'm married, worse luck; it was he as spliced me, and I ha'nt a forgiven 'un for it yet." Yet this was the man who was most clamorous against a separation from his wife.

Dietaries.

8. The objections which were raised against the dietary tables, submitted to the boards of guardians, created, if possible, a still stronger sensation than the question of separation. The reasonable answer to the objection, that the pauper had no right to expect better fare than the poor rate-payer, out of whose slender means he was supplied, or the honest and independent labourer, who earned his subsistence by his own exertions, had the effect of convincing many of the erroneous judgment they had formed; others, still persisting in their opinion, appealed to your Board. In consequence of these statements of the local habits of the pauper, a modification of the order was allowed in several cases; but subsequent experience has convinced me, that there was no real ground for such modifications, that the inconvenient discrepancy in the dietaries of the different Unions thereby established should be removed, and a uniform system enforced by some future regulation.

Workhouse employment.

9. The species of work required to be performed by paupers in a workhouse exercises one of the strongest influences over their disposition to accept relief of that description, for which reason, the more undesirable the employment the less the inducement to become inmates of the workhouse. Nearly all the Unions in this county are now supplied with hand flour-mills; in one or two instances a bone-mill is used; and oakum picking or stone breaking have been generally adopted as auxiliaries to the mills. Oakum picking alone, from the uniformity and steadiness of the employment, has had the effect of driving the unsteady and indolent paupers from the house, and deterring others from approaching it. Stone breaking has been so successful in its application, that at the Battle workhouse, where it has been resorted to, only five men (and those by no means able-bodied), have been

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in the house at one time during the whole of the last winter. The triumph of the use of hand-mills over idleness has been still more striking. In the Westbourne Union, in October last, more than 100 men had been offered the house, and had refused to enter it. Previously to this period, the guardians had erected a hand-mill for 16 men; the paupers, knowing that it could not be worked by a fewer number, had so managed to accept the offer of the workhouse, that sufficient hands were never there at any one time to put the mill in motion. The guardians, seeing through the manœuvre which was practised upon them, immediately ordered a mill for four hands, which put a complete stop to the entrance of the able-bodied paupers into the workhouse. In the Cuckfield workhouse, in December last, there were 23 able paupers. On the introduction of a hand-mill the number has gradually dwindled away, and four were all that remained when I visited the workhouse about three weeks since. In many of the other Unions the mills have absolutely been rusting upon their stands for want of hands to turn them; such, in fact, has been the effect of the knowledge alone of their existence, that out of more than 700 cases which have come under my own immediate observation, where the offer of the house has been made to able-bodied paupers, not more than 300 of such offers have been accepted; and in none of these instances has the pauper remained more than a week within its walls.

Pauper conspiracy.

Workhouse schools.

10. The workhouse schools have proved a great blessing to deserted and orphan pauper children, for whose services a decided preference is shown by employers, who now seek for domestic servants amongst this class; but the labouring poor have, ever since their establishment, shown a marked and inexplicable repugnance to take advantage of the offers which have been made them of relieving their necessities, by providing for a portion of their family in so desirable a manner.

Rules for out-door relief.

11. The rules for controlling out-door relief have been strikingly successful in their application. The benefit derived from that particular one which restricts the nature of the relief to be given to able-bodied paupers to articles in kind, has been sensibly felt by the mothers of large families, who have been frequently heard to bestow their benisons on a regulation which has been the means of securing the due application of that assistance which was intended for themselves and their families, but which was formerly in too many instances dissipated at the beer-shop.

Disallowance of payment of rents.

12. The disallowance of the payment of rents has had the effect of reducing the demands of the landlords of cottages; and tenements which formerly let as high as 5 *l.*, have lately, in many instances, been obtained at as low a rate as 3*l.* 10*s.* Mr. Nokes, an extensive employer of agricultural labourers, informs me this is the case in the parish of Ticehurst, and I am assured that this salutary rule has had the desired effect in other quarters.

Disallowance of relief to non-resident paupers.

13. The rule for withholding relief from non-resident able-bodied paupers, has not only been the means of reducing an extravagant, and, in many cases, improperly applied, species of relief, but has proved that the wages of the able-bodied labourer are sufficient for the maintenance of his family without parochial assistance; for out of the numerous cases to which this rule has been applied, (and in one Union a list of nearly 1,100 names was exhibited,) not five instances have occurred where a pauper has come home to his parish for the purpose of obtaining that relief which was denied to him as a non-resident. Out of a number of examples of the efficacy of this rule, as a test of necessity, I will mention one which occurred in the Chailey Union, where a pauper belonging to the parish of Street, but residing in that of Hartfield, had the whole of the relief, amounting to 22*l.* per annum, which he had for some years previously been in the habit of receiving, stopped; but even this diminution of his means did not show his necessities to be such as to oblige him to return home for the sake of having it restored to him.

Out-door relief to the able-bodied.

14. It has hitherto been found almost impracticable to effect the total abolition of relief, in aid of wages, to the able-bodied pauper, not that the difficulty in attaining this desirable object has arisen from any depreciation in the value of the remuneration for labour, for as in no county in England does the agricultural labourer receive a fairer recompense for his industry than in this, where wages during the whole year are not less than 10*s.*, and (in the eastern part of the county) are frequently as high as 13*s.* 6*d.* per week, so in no county had this inveterate evil increased to an extent so unbounded and so mischievous. Suddenly and entirely to have struck off an allowance which the labourer had been taught to consider almost as a right, would, in my opinion, have been highly inexpedient. It has been the aim of the several boards of guardians to lead the recipients of this species of relief to that point at which it would wholly cease, by a progressive diminution of it. This practice has paved the way for its official extinction, by the rule for that purpose lately issued by your Board, by which a death-blow has, I trust, been given to the pernicious practice of making up wages out of the poor's-rates, and the farmer been enabled, by the consequent savings, to employ a greater number of labourers, and requite their services with greater liberality.

Medical relief.

15. Though the decrease in general pauperism, and in the amount of the poor's-rates, has been rapid and extensive beyond the expectations of the most sanguine, I regret to say that, up to this time, I am unable to report the medical relief as exhibiting a corresponding ratio of diminution. Gratuitous assistance of any description, afforded to the poor by the hands of the parish, is relief. Medical assistance of this kind is relief; and the person receiving it is, to all intents and purposes, a pauper. It is the duty of the Poor Law Commissioners, not only to check, but, as far as is practicable, to effect the abolition of this species of relief to the able-bodied labourer; such have been my instructions from your Board, and such has been the line of duty pursued by me in accordance with them; but the deeply-rooted and generally received opinion entertained concurrently by the guardians and medical men, that the surgery of the parish doctor is a sort of recognized and permanently-established dispensary, to which all persons of the labouring classes, whether paupers in the receipt of general relief,

relief, or independent labourers, have a right to apply for assistance, has materially baffled my endeavours to reduce the present extravagant salaries of the medical officers, To this feeling it is owing that a medical club, established in the parish of Rottingdean, in the Newhaven Union, is the only one which has hitherto made its appearance in the county, though the money which is frequently dissipated in one night by an improvident father at a beer-shop, would, if applied to this purpose, be sufficient to insure him independent medical advice throughout the year for his whole family, be it ever so numerous: indeed, it appears to me to be almost hopeless to expect that the salutary plan for the formation of medical clubs which has been submitted by your Board to the several Unions, will be extensively adopted, whilst a facility of obtaining medical relief gratuitously, is open to those who would otherwise become contributors to them; and without the aid of some official order to check its extension, the object in view will be materially retarded, if not entirely frustrated.

Effect of the new law on parochial expenditure.

16. As the surest and most convincing criterion of the operation of the new law, considered as to the lucrative effect produced, will be afforded by an exposition of the savings effected in the parochial expenditure, I will now proceed to show, first, to what extent the pressure on property caused by the former prodigal system has been removed, and secondly, how the new method of keeping the accounts has worked with the officers of the several Unions. An answer to the first object of inquiry will be found in a subsequent tabular statement, where a comparison between the present and original expenditure, before the formation of the Union, is made, on the following principle. The total amount of the expenditure upon the poor, including establishment charges, for the quarter ending on the 25th day of December last, is shown in Schedule (A). The amount of the quarter's expenditure is multiplied by four, so as to give the expenditure of one whole year calculated upon that amount; this calculation is compared with the amount of one year's expenditure under the averages taken before the formation of the Union, from which it is subtracted, and the savings are shown by the subtraction. The quarter ending in December has been selected for comparison, as being an exact statement of the cost incurred for the relief of the poor, and the establishment charges connected therewith, on which principle the averages of the three years expenditure, immediately preceding the Union, were calculated; whereas, with the establishment charges in the accounts of the several Unions for the quarter ended on the 25th day of March last, which have just been handed to me, many items for alterations and repairs of workhouses and other matters, unconnected with the relief of the poor, are wound up, which I have no means of separating, and a statement calculated to mislead would be thereby exhibited. A return, however, for the quarter ended the 25th day of March last, including the establishment charges, is given in Schedule (B.), which is placed in juxtaposition with the previous quarter; and Schedule (C.) contains a statement of the actual cost of the in-door maintenance and out-door relief only, exclusive of the establishment charges, for both quarters, showing a saving in the March quarter, as compared with that for December, in a majority of the Unions, notwithstanding that the first mentioned quarter is generally considered the heaviest, from the cessation of many of the winter sources of employment, such as woodcutting, &c., and from the vernal agricultural occupations not having yet commenced. *See* Schedules (A.), (B.), (C.), in the Supplement.*

* p. 226.

Accounts.

17. In regard to the second object of inquiry, as to the manner in which the new method of keeping the accounts has worked with the officers of the several Unions, I have found a ready and strict compliance with the rules and regulations issued by your Board for conducting that important branch of management, neglect and irregularity in which would speedily reproduce the corrupt and anomalous practices which it was designed to prevent; some little dissatisfaction was indeed expressed in the first instance at the alleged complication of the plan, but experience has removed these objections, and the various books are now kept with very great accuracy.

Absorption of surplus labour.

18. The diminution in the present expenditure of the parishes composing the several Unions, as compared with that previous to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, (in many cases amounting to more than half), naturally produces the query, "How has this reduction been effected?" and when it shall have been shown that the saving is in a great measure attributable to the abolition of the unjustifiable and destructive system of throwing the so-called surplus labourers out of employment, and saddling them upon the parish funds during the winter months, another question obviously presents itself, "How have the labourers, who were formerly thus thrown inactively upon their parishes, found employment?" On this subject I have only to state succinctly the facts as I have found them.

Absorption proved.

19. That an absorption of the originally supposed surplusage of hands has actually taken place to a great and satisfactory extent under the operation of the new measures will be proved from the following tables; in the first of which I have endeavoured to show the number of hands which were out of employment in several of the Unions of the eastern division of the county, at that period of the preceding year in which I was pursuing my inquiries into its statistics, corresponding with the final quarter of the last parochial year, ended on the 25th of March last. The average number which have been in the same situation during that last quarter, (which is avowedly the dullest of the whole year), and the number which are out of employment at the present time. The second table contains the Unions of the western division of the county, whose statistics were taken by another Assistant Commissioner, and of whose state previously to their union I have no returns, and those of the eastern division which were taken by myself during the summer months, and which on that account afford no materials for a fair comparison with the last quarter.

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No. 3. Report of *W. H. T. Hawley*, Esq.

TABLE showing the Number of Labourers out of Employment in the following Six Unions, in the March Quarter previous to their Union; the average Number out of Employment during the Three Months of the March Quarter just ended, and in the first Week of June instant.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Number out of Employment in the March Quarter previous to the Union.	Average Number out of Employment in the March Quarter just ended.	Number out of Employment in the First Week of June instant.
1. Uckfield	218	8	—
2. Cuckfield	419	45	—
3. Chailey	139	33	15
4. Eastbourne	265	12	—
5. Hailsham	350	69	—
6. West Firle	40	15	—
	1,431	182	15

TABLE showing the average Number of Labourers out of Employment in the following Fourteen Unions previous to the Union, during the Three Months of the March Quarter just ended and in the First Week of June instant.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Number out of Employment previous to the Union.	Average Number out of Employment in the March Quarter just ended.	Number out of Employment in the First Week of June instant.
1. Ticehurst	360	12	1
2. Battle	608	—	—
3. Lewes	175	4	2
4. East Grinstead	658	43	3
5. Hastings	266	13	6
6. Rye	372	42	14
7. Westbourne	90	6	—
8. Steyning	236	11	30
9. Thakeham	542	25	—
10. Horsham	454	51	1
11. Midhurst	306	20	—
12. Petworth	382	71	52
13. Westhampnett	216	18	—
14. Newhaven	64	11	—
	4,729	327	109

The allegation of the facility of absorption of the pretended surplusage by the demand for labour in the county itself is thus fully borne out. Upwards of 1,400 hands are here proved to have been absolutely out of employment in the March quarter previous to the establishment of the new law in six Unions alone: assuming a like proportion to have been similarly situated in the 14 remaining Unions, (and the assumption is warranted by the fact that 150 men have been out of employment at one time in the parish of Battle alone, in the parish of East Grinstead more than 60, and in others quite as large a proportion), not less than 3,400 were formerly thrown as a burden upon the rate-payers during the period of the year in which their services could conveniently be dispensed with by their employers, to be temporarily maintained by those who had no interest whatever in their services. Of these 3,400 surplus labourers, 2,891 totally disappeared before the end of the last quarter, at which time only 509 remained unemployed; and the list has since been still further diminished, by the disappearance of 365 others, leaving only (with an allowance of 20 to the Hailsham Union, from which I have no return for the last week) 124 paupers unemployed at the present moment throughout the whole county, at a time too, be it remembered, when wood-cutting and bark-stripping have ceased, and the hay harvest has not yet commenced.

Emigration.

20. It is true that the valve opened by emigration has partially assisted in removing the pressure from some of the most pauperized districts; but this expedient for easing the burdens of the agriculturists has rather conferred a moral than a pecuniary benefit on the community,

community, by removing many of those vicious characters who, steeped in vice and habitual pauperism, have preferred the uncertain advantages of expatriation to honest industry at home. If it be contended that a pecuniary advantage in respect of the reduction of pauperism has been derived from emigration, how happens it that the Petworth district (which is not disproportionably burdened with agricultural labourers in comparison with its acreage), from whence, in the space of the last five years, not less than 1,456 individuals have emigrated, and where the Earl of Egremont, with that generous and public spirited feeling for which he is so remarkable, has employed nearly 150 of the able-bodied poor during the last winter, is notwithstanding the most pauperized of any in the county; and that in the Petworth Union upwards of 70 men have been out of employment during the last quarter; whereas in the Battle and Uckfield Unions, which are quite as thickly populated, and where emigration has scarcely, if at all, been taken advantage of, the surplusage has entirely ceased to exist? How has it come to pass that in the Westbourne, Thakeham, Westhampnett and other Unions, where emigration has been resorted to on too limited a scale to make the slightest perceptible difference in the pressure caused by an alleged excess of population, the extra hands have all, or nearly so, found employment? The solution of the latter part of this problem will be a complete stumbling block in the way of those who hold the doctrine of an excess of agricultural population: absorption, caused by local demand, is the answer. Still I would by no means seek to discourage the spirit of emigration, were it only upon the ground of the prospective benefit which it may confer on those who remain at home, by the increased stimulus it will give to industry, and the consequent advance in the rate of wages. That the new law has a tendency to promote it is beyond a doubt; that it has promoted it is equally certain; and of this fact I have the evidence of the Rev. T. Sockett, the rector of Petworth, who from his extensive experience in these matters, (having for several years past conducted the management of the Petworth emigration committee), may be looked upon as undoubted authority. He says, "The emigration of the present year is clearly traceable to the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act. From the parish of Tillington, in the Midhurst Union, 50 individuals have departed, the expense of their victualling, conveyance, &c. being defrayed by Lord Egremont; and an equal proportion would have emigrated from every parish in that Union had there been a Lord Egremont in each to defray the expense." But though an ardour for emigration has apparently prevailed in the parish of Tillington, it has two powerful adversaries opposed to its general extension—the love of country and parochial relief, whose counteracting agency I remember to have seen forcibly described in a letter from a quondam pauper of the Lewes Union named Hunt, who had emigrated to New York. After endeavouring to prevail upon his father to join him, and to bring out as many of his old associates with him as he could induce to go, he adds, "but I don't expect to see any of the Lewes bricklayers out here, for they won't come unless they can bring the hills and the parish along with them." Of these influences, the natural one will, to a certain extent, continue to exert a counteracting power over the human mind; the victory over the artificial one is nearly achieved.

Home migration.

21. But if little of the pressure has been removed by emigration, still less has been the relief afforded to the pauperized districts by home migration, notwithstanding the wide and lucrative field for employment which the railroads in the southern and the manufactories in the northern counties have thrown open to the labouring portion of the community. Some few have taken advantage of the liberal offers of the manufacturers, from West Sussex, and are delighted with the fortunate change which has been wrought in their condition; but with the most ceaseless efforts on my own part, aided by the endeavours of the guardians of the several Unions, we have never been able to induce a single family to move from East Sussex, though the most favourable accounts have been brought back by paupers who have from time to time been sent up to Manchester for the purpose of reporting to their fellow labourers. This apathetic feeling may in some measure be traced to a rooted antipathy to locomotion, which nature seems to have implanted in the breast of the Sussex labourers, and partly, I suspect, from a conviction that there is work for them at home if they choose to exert themselves to obtain it.

Mode of absorption.

22. Absorption has thus been proved to have been extensively carried into effect by local means, without any extraneous agency, and that it has been caused chiefly by the joint efforts of the labourers to obtain, and the agriculturists to supply them with employment, I purpose to show presently by the testimony of the employers themselves. To one accustomed to make observations formerly, an almost magical change of system is perceptible; the lazy groups of paupers who heretofore infested the highways, or thronged the gravel pits, have totally disappeared; one nowhere now meets the indolent and tattered parish bird, who, leaning on his hoe, with insolence and suspicion in his eye, made it a practice, either by word or gesture, to insult every respectable person who passed him; but in his place the independent labourer is employed on the necessary repairs of the roads; and it is by no means uncommon to see the father of a family, with his wife and some of his younger children (even the females), engaged in the (now well-paid) employment of stone-breaking. The evidence of those who have been practically instrumental in effecting a material and salutary alteration, such as that which has taken place in the administration of the parochial affairs of this country, brings with it greater weight and conviction than the speculations of such as have viewed the working of the measure which has produced it at a distance, and for this reason I shall, without farther comment, quote certain answers which have been supplied by persons best qualified to judge of these matters, to my inquiries touching the absorption of labour, and the manner in which the numerous paupers, who used to be out of employment during the winter months under the old system, have obtained it under the new, and as to whether

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Proved from the evidence of employers of agricultural labourers and others.

whether they have found it chiefly in their own parishes or elsewhere. The respondents are persons either possessing or occupying large landed estates:

Evidence of Mr. *Smith*, of Framfield, in the Uckfield Union.—"The reason why, in this parish, we had under the old system from 50 to 60 labourers out of employment during the winter months, or in the gravel pits, or on the farmers on the billet system, and that under the new law we have had scarcely any, is, that now the labourers are thrown on their own resources, and have consequently been more diligent in seeking for work; this coupled with the farmer's knowledge that they could no longer have their work done by parish men, and awaiting particular times, has caused the work to come more regularly into the market. Some few have got work out of the parish, but it has generally been found within."

Of *W. C. Mabbott*, esq., of Uckfield, one of the magistrates for the county.—"Not only have we no men out of employment at this time (January 23), but, judging from a circumstance which happened the other day, there appears to be an insufficiency of hands to perform the requisite labour. In the parish of Fletching, where I have property, I required the services of some labourers to cut a coppice; this is profitable employment, but so great was the scarcity of hands that I was unable to obtain one, and this in a parish where last year there were from 60 to 70 men unemployed throughout the whole winter."

Of Mr. *R. Mannington*, of Maresfield.—"The surplus labourers in this parish used to be employed at digging stone in the forest for the turnpike roads at a great loss to the parish, there being generally more hands than were required, with little or nothing to stimulate them. Under the new system many of the same men are emancipated from pauperism, and work at the same job as independent labourers."

Of Mr. *James Russell*, of Bexhill.—"This is almost the only parish in the Union of Battle where many men of late years have been employed on the roads, or at parish work. Great relief has been afforded to our labourers by the praiseworthy example set by Sir Peregrine Acland, who, by the advice of his steward, Mr. Bellingham, has employed a considerable number in draining and other improvements on his land. This example has not been generally followed, which may in some measure be attributed to the prejudice entertained by some persons against the new poor law, but mainly to the depressed state of agriculture. The number of labourers employed, as stated, bears no proportion to what were usually in parish employ; but a disposition has more strongly prevailed to get work wherever it can be found, and the parish boundary no longer marks the spot where the labourers' exertions to find employment are to cease; as an instance, three families from this parish have settled in London this winter, where they are now at work with good wages."

Of Mr. *G. Wickens*, of Rotherfield.—"The reasons why the labourers get employment better than they did before the new poor law came into operation are many, and many littles make a large amount. The labourer now, being put upon his own resources, comes to ask his employer for work in a different way from what he formerly did; when he formerly came to him, he would ask him in that off-handed manner that you knew he did not intend to do you justice if you set him to work; he would perhaps go to two or three in the parish in this way, (and those two or three were, he thought, most unlikely to set him to work,) then go to the parish officer for an order to go on the road, which was where he wanted to get, and make the parish officer pay him for his day going round the parish asking for work, and perhaps half the day at work in his own garden, or spending money at a beer-shop. Now he will come to you and say, 'Don't you want somebody to do such and such a job? I shall be glad to do it for you;' and the employer finding he has not got half the rate to pay he formerly had, sets him to work, and the man going on better than he formerly did, induces his employer to keep him on. One instance I know of this in my next neighbour, a small farmer, employing one labourer formerly through the summer, (excepting two living in his house) and turning him off the greater part of the winter. He one morning came to my house; I said to him, 'Do you keep Farnes on to work for you this winter?' he said, 'Yes, I have set him to draining; he (Farnes) said he did not know what he should do if I turned him off, and I, finding I had not half the poor-rate to pay I have had, I thought I would keep him on.' I have known many of our rate-payers send men to the surveyor to set them to work on a wet day, and tell them to come back again when it was fine; now if they turn them off on a wet day, (if they are good workmen) I think perhaps they would not know where to find them on a fine one. Another abominable system was that of billeting the men at 1*s.* per day, and paying the remainder out of the poor-rates, which made nearly half the labourers paupers. Now having but very few paupers, all depending on their own industry, and being independent of the parish, puts altogether a new face on the case."

Of *John Baldock*, esq., of Burwash.—"The surplus labour has been almost entirely absorbed by individuals expending part of the monies (which under the old system would have been paid in poor's-rates) in the employment of additional labourers. In this parish no less than 48 men, and boys from 16 to 20 years of age, applied to the relieving officer for work in the first week of granting relief in November last; but by two or three landed proprietors in the parish taking between them from 10 to 15 persons out of that number, and employing them during the winter months at extra work, such as trenching and planting poor ground, &c., and the farmers occasionally taking an extra hand, most of the labourers obtained employment, and although the workhouse was offered to some of the idle and profligate, yet they in very few instances would accept of the offer."

Of the Rev. *J. Austen*, of Pulborough.—"We have not, so far as I am able to learn, one able-bodied man at present out of employ; there has been a hard struggle to persuade them to move; but those who have been for years idling on the roads have at last gone out of the parish, and have found work at good wages."

Of

Of *R. Tournay*, esq., clerk to the Ticehurst Union.—"When the out-door relief first commenced, about the middle of November, a very considerable number of hands applied for work in the parishes of Burwash and Salehurst; no less than 48 in one week in the parish of Burwash; some of the single men, and a few married ones with no children, were offered the workhouse, some were offered relief by way of loan, and a few, in the parishes of Salehurst and Burwash, were offered work by some landowners by the piece, where they were obliged to work hard to earn their money. This work was refused by about four men in Burwash, who contrived then to get work for themselves; only a few accepted the house, nor have there been many applications for loans. The number of applications for work consequently diminished, and this board (the Ticehurst Union) have not hitherto found any out-door work. Till the 24th of December there were scarcely any unemployed poor in the Union, except in the parishes of Burwash and Salehurst above mentioned; but on the 24th there were several applications from Frant and Lamberhurst, some of them being out of work in consequence of the snow, but a very few of them accepted the offer of the workhouse. In Burwash parish, the surveyors have employed some hands on the highways, where labour was actually wanted, and several are now in steady work who applied for parish work in the beginning of November."

Of *G. Whiteman*, esq., clerk to the Eastbourne Union.—"The method by which the 'surplus labour' has been absorbed in the parishes in this Union, and the consequent diminution of expenditure for relief to the able-bodied, is by reason of the farmers having (with the praiseworthy intention of assisting the working of the new law, and of preventing many industrious men from going into the workhouse,) employed more labourers on their farms than they have actually required; it is however proper to state that these payments for (if I may so term it) surplus labour, although considerable, bear no proportion to the decrease of expenditure for relief to the able-bodied, notwithstanding that in many cases the expenditure for extra labour by the farmers has been very considerable. Another mode in which the surplus labour has been absorbed is by the paupers having in some few cases sought for employment out of their parishes, and having for a time procured it, whilst some few others have left their parishes altogether. A great reluctance in the paupers to migrate is however very apparent, and nothing but the dread of the workhouse will induce them to do so."

Of *Henry Mason*, esq., clerk to the Rye Union:—"There still exists a surplusage of labour, principally in the parishes of Northiam and Beckly, where it has been found impratcicable during the winter months to give the labourers employment. In Rye, and other parishes, they have been much absorbed by the improvements which are making in the Rye harbour, and which have been deferred till the winter for that purpose. Wages are about the same as last year (12*s.*), but the labourers are more generally employed. Independent of these results, a great pecuniary saving has been realized, and which has proved to be already upwards of two-fifths of the average of the last three years."

Of *D. Smart*, esq., clerk to the West Bourne Union:—"The labourers are much more diligent and anxious to please than they used to be; the masters are therefore more willing to give them employment. Many, for the same reason, and on account of the reduced expenditure for rates, give higher wages, and the greater part of the supposed surplus labour has been absorbed in the Union, but some of the labourers have gone to a distance."

Of *W. P. Kell*, esq., clerk of the Lewes Union:—"That which has hitherto been termed surplus-labour has been got rid of by means of the paupers generally having expressed a strong dislike to submit to the rules of the workhouses, and this again has thrown them upon their own resources. The employment of the surplus labour previous to the Union, was done by sending the paupers to flint-digging upon the adjoining hills, and the deficiency of their earnings was made up out of the poor-rates according to the numbers of their families. The paupers being now left to seek their own employment, have in most cases succeeded either in the general trade of the town, or in husbandry work."

Of *H. Bishop*, esq., clerk of the Hastings Union:—"I doubt whether, except in peculiar places, and under peculiar circumstances, there really ever was any such thing as surplus labour; the old system of administering parochial relief held out a premium to idleness, and the result was miscalled surplus labour, the absorption of which has been produced by the removal of the cause. The facility of obtaining relief being taken away, and that granted being more sparingly given, and only according to rule, with the workhouse system staring him in the face, the labourer has been compelled, not only to labour but to accept such jobs as he could get, instead of being picksome and indifferent as heretofore; whilst the employer finding that the decrease of the poor-rates has left him more money for labour, and that the money so expended produced him a return, has willingly employed more hands."

Mr. *Ticehurst*, clerk to the Battle Union, states that, "It may already be perceived that parents are more anxious to get their children into service than formerly, and encourage them to continue there; that boys and young men under 20 are now learning all sorts of husbandry work, being employed with their parents and bringing their earnings to the common stock; that they are anxious to get and to continue in such employment, and are aware that a good character is now of vital importance to them. The money earned in harvest and hop-picking was not last year dissipated as it often used to be; in short the complaints which are general by the keepers of public-houses and beer-shops, that it is the worst bill ever passed for them, will bear out that assertion. No parish work has been found nor any relief out of the workhouse been given to any able-bodied pauper or his family, when in health, since the commencement

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mencement of the Union. The relief has been offered when the guardians thought it necessary, by offering to admit one or more of the pauper's family into the workhouse school, and although 120 children have had the opportunity since the formation of the Union up to the 25th of March last, very few have availed themselves of it; and on that day the number of children of able-bodied persons in the workhouse was only three, but a great many children went into service immediately after the offers were made to admit them. As to the able-bodied, with the exception of one man, who has been repeatedly punished for cruel neglect of his family whom he was well able to maintain, we had not one person in the house at Lady-day who could be properly called an able-bodied man; and though offers have been made to several whole families as well as single men during the winter, a very few, and those generally single men, came in; they remained a very short time, behaved very badly, and some were punished for absconding with the clothes of the Union. The assertion of there being surplus labour is, I think, refuted, as far as this Union is concerned, by the fact that all the labourers who are good for anything have been employed during the winter, and I know of no sort of provision being made for such employment, except that at Bexhill, which from various causes is peculiarly situated: a landed proprietor ordered some improvements on his estate, at which any industrious man who applied was employed at task-work, at fair wages; the number thus employed during the winter six months, was from eight to fifteen men. The surplus hands on Bexhill parish during the preceding winter was, on an average, 69. In Battle parish the miscalled surplus hands have been for several years employed under an arrangement between the occupiers of land and houses, the former taking men in proportion to his rental, and the latter employing the remainder, so that I cannot state the precise number; but before that system was adopted, they might be said to average at 80; in fact I have known 150 men in this parish as surplus hands; and now we have not one who cannot, generally speaking, get employment if he endeavours to do so. These two parishes may be taken as a sample of the whole Union, regard being had to the population. I hear farmers in the Union constantly state that the men are better workmen, appear to have their masters' interest more at heart, and are more studious to keep work when employed, and grateful for any little assistance the employer may render them, which he is enabled by the reduction in his rates, and which, I believe, he often does render to them in case of temporary distress or misfortune; and for continuing them at work at times when it is not considered profitable, instead of, as formerly, referring them to the parish. Instances have occurred, too, of men having been taken for a week or two, in consequence of their earnestly requesting employment, who have behaved so well that they have been continued in permanent work. That the labourer feels he has more attention paid him than formerly, in cases of sickness or accident, I am convinced, from the circumstance of several having of their own accord withdrawn their applications for relief when recovering, and desired the relieving-officer to express their thanks to the Board for the assistance which had been rendered; a circumstance I never recollect having happened before, although I have been a constant attendant at the select vestry of this parish for some years."

Moral effect of the new law on the labouring population.

23. One of the most interesting, and at the same time most important results of the new law still remains to be noticed. I allude to the moral effect which the change of system has produced upon the labouring population. To this question my most anxious attention has been turned during the silent but rapid march of poor-law reformation; I have endeavoured to trace how far the new measures have been instrumental in reclaiming the victims of former misrule, by inducing them to seek after and retain employment, to avoid those destructive sinks of immorality, the beer-shops, to abstain from untimely and improvident marriages, to husband the resources of the summer to meet the contingencies of the winter, and generally to throw off those habits which were proceeding with such headlong tendency to pauperize and debase the whole of the labouring portion of the community; and the remarks I have made, whilst cautiously watching their progress, have perfectly satisfied me of a regeneration in the moral character of the labourer, as striking and complete as the change which has been wrought in the parochial polity. Though my own observations would enable me to illustrate this argument by facts supplied from practical experience, yet in this instance, as in the last, I shall prefer the evidence of those whose habits or duties have thrown them more amongst that class to whom the present inquiry is directed. Previously, however, to adducing their testimony in proof of my assumption, I purpose bringing forward certain returns which have been supplied me, to meet and overthrow the objections of those who have asserted that the enforcement of the new regulations has not only inflicted an evil on society generally, and misery on the poor particularly, but that it has absolutely been the cause of an increase in crime to an unprecedented and fearful extent. That the idle and dissolute pauper may have been induced to supply deficiencies caused by withholding parish relief, through the means of thieving and poaching, I am quite ready to admit; this no doubt has helped to swell the catalogue of criminality, but the law must not on that account be called in question as the author of moral turpitude; it has only brought those seeds of depravity into existence, whose germination previously was merely suspended by the smothering operation of the bribe from the parish purse, and by showing the offenders in their true character has conferred a benefit upon, rather than produced mischief to the community.

Convictions before magistrates.

24. The following statement of the number of convictions at the quarter and petty sessions, which are therein specified, will prove, not only that no increase of crime has been the consequence of the Poor Law Amendment Act, but that there is in reality a diminution.

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RETURN of the Number of SUMMARY CONVICTIONS in the following Petty Sessional Divisions, in the County of *Sussex*, for the Years 1834, 1835 and 1836:

Division of Petty Sessions.	1834.	1835.	1836.
Frant	29	32	26
Uckfield	41	30	32
Hailsham	23	25	26
Burwash	14	5	17
Battle	74	78	88
Petworth	42	35	20
Horsham	33	34	41
Midhurst	41	53	47
Cuckfield	31	24	30*
Fletching	11	15	20
Lewes	104	100	80
TOTALS	443	431	427

* Of these, 10 were for misbehaviour in the workhouse at Cuckfield.

The return from Petworth is of a nature so satisfactory, that I beg to insert it by itself.

NUMBER of SUMMARY CONVICTIONS at the *Petworth* Petty Sessions:

YEAR ending 25 March.	Assaults.	Game Laws.	Malicious Trespass.	Vagrancy.	Drunkenness.	TOTALS.
1834	9	16	16	1	—	42
1835	21	5	7	2	—	35
1836	4	7	5	4	—	20
Totals	34	28	28	7	—	97

RETURN of the Number of COMMITMENTS for Trial for Felonies at the several Quarter Sessions for the County of *Sussex*, in the Years (ending Easter Sessions) 1834, 1835 and 1836:

YEAR.	Eastern Division.	Western Division.	TOTALS.
1834	153	67	220
1835	144	88	232
1836	139	64	203
Aggregate	436	219	655

25. Considerable alarm was caused in the month of September by the frequent recurrence of incendiary fires, not less than three having happened in one night only, but, with the exception of an attempt by a half-witted urchin to burn the workhouse at Eastbourne, the offence here had its limit; and though endeavours were industriously made by ill-affected individuals to trace the cause generally to the operation of the new poor law, subsequent investigation has proved that in a majority of the cases private resentment had lighted the torch of the incendiary. Since the 28th of September last this diabolical spirit, which impressed terror on the owners of property and a stain on the character of the labouring population, has totally disappeared. I subjoin a list of the fires which have happened during the last parochial year: Incendiary fires.

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1.	May 13	at Chinton Farm.
2.	— 16	at Sutton Farm.
3.	June 3	at West Wittering.
4.	July 21	at Albourne.
5.	Sept. 12	at Henfield.
6.	— 14	at Chinton.
7.	— 28	at Lodsworth.
8.	— —	at River (Petworth).
9.	— —	at Newick.
10.	Jan. 27	at Eastbourne Workhouse.

Bastardy.

26. The period which has elapsed since the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act is too short to have produced such a development of its operation on the evil of bastardy as to enable the observer to form any safe and correct judgment of its efficacy. That the encouragement which was formerly held out to young women to barter their virtue for allowances, by which vice was legalised and infamy rendered profitable, has received a salutary check from the late enactment; the infrequency of applications for orders of affiliation at the quarter sessions is convincing evidence: but I regret to add, that the best information which I can obtain is insufficient to prove any decided moral effect which has hitherto been produced by its agency. It is gratifying, at all events, to find by the following statement that the evil is not on the increase; and I am inclined to believe, from rumour, that had time permitted me to have procured more general and complete returns, that I should have been able to prove a positive decrease. As it is, the amount of the number of cases for the last three years, in the nine subjoined Unions, stands as follows:

NUMBER of BASTARDY CASES in the 13 following Unions, for the Years 1834, 1835 and 1836.

UNIONS.	1834.	1835.	1836.
1. East Grinstead	9	11	12
2. Petworth	19	15	10
3. Cuckfield	15	14	15
4. Thakeham	15	10	17
5. Eastbourne	18	11	13
6. Rye	16	6	18
7. Ticehurst	43	36	26
8. Chailey	8	15	8
9. Westbourne	3	5	3
10. Battle	28	23	22
11. Horsham	13	16	12
12. Hastings	15	8	15
13. Steyning	15	8	3
TOTALS	217	178	174

Evidence as to the general moral effect of the new law.

27. The following is the evidence I have received as to the general moral effect of the new law on the labouring classes:

The Rev. *Thomas Pitman*, minister of Eastbourne:—"Among the labouring classes there is a decided and progressive alteration; even the farmers themselves have observed to me, that there is in the general conduct of the agricultural labourers a civility of manner and attention to their master's wishes, which of late years has been little perceptible; and perhaps the most marked difference in the lower orders observable by us as clergymen, is the almost total cessation of early and improvident marriages. I should not forget also to mention, that, as far as I can form a judgment, there is also a decided improvement in the marriages that do take place: the altar is not now, as heretofore, disgraced by the appearance of a woman to take upon her the solemn obligation of matrimony in the last stage of pregnancy; a fact which I think goes far to show that the morals of the people are undergoing a change for the better, and promises that ere long we may hope for all that domestic happiness among our poorer neighbours, which results from a match of pure affection, in the place of all that wretchedness, discord and misery which are the too sure produce of a marriage commenced in sin, and fostered only by a hope of procuring a means from the parish of carrying on from time to time sinful indulgencies."

The Rev. *Henry Moore*, minister of Willingdon, and chaplain of the workhouse at Eastbourne:—"From the observations I have been able to make within my own parish, and in this district, I can most readily bear testimony to the beneficial effects arising from the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act. The labouring people are decidedly more saving in their domestic expenses, less improvident in marrying, and more respectful and civil towards their superiors. It gives me great pleasure to be able to state, that I observe also a manifest change for the better in the general behaviour of the inmates in the Union-house at Eastbourne: that spirit of discontent and insubordination which prevailed to a considerable

considerable extent during the winter months seems to be gradually subsiding, and a more quiet and submissive conduct is beginning to show itself. I have no doubt the new Act will produce a great improvement in the moral condition of the labouring classes, and prove a lasting and substantial benefit to the country at large."

The Rev. *Thomas Baden Powell*, minister of Newick:—"The attendance of the labouring class at church, and of their children at the Sunday-school, I perceive to be more constant and numerous during the last 12 months. This improvement must in part be attributed to the enlargement of our parish church, but also to a desire, which I fervently hope is on the increase among them, both to establish a decorous general demeanour as well as to hear and observe their Christian duties. A penny clothing society was established in this parish on the 1st of January in this year; it was quickly filled by 91 poor members, whose payments of one penny per week have been hitherto punctually made. At the same time, the weekly payments to the boys' National School have become more regular than last year, though they are at present less exact than they ought to be.

The purchase of books, at the reduced prices of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, is steadily on the increase; a considerable proportion of these is sold to the labouring families.

It has been remarked to me, that fewer persons frequent the public-house and beer-shops since the introduction of the new system; the labourers have exerted themselves more to find employment, and they have sought it, with this advantage, that the less liberal employers are now ready to engage a labourer without hanging back for the parish to intervene."

The Rev. *J. C. F. Tufnell*, minister of Hurstperpoint:—"With regard to the aged and infirm, the advantage on their side, which I had ever anticipated in their removal from the several workhouses within the Union to one general one, is fully realized; they are now released from the interruptions of noisy children, disorderly and disreputable women, and idle men, and the opportunity afforded of having the best interests of their declining years attended to more effectually than they could be before. I think that they are fully sensible of the proper degree of comfort they are allowed to enjoy.

"With regard to the labourers generally, one great evil has been remedied in reducing parish work to a very minimum: and one most desirable end has been attained, viz. that of teaching the labourer the value of a situation when he has found one, and thus cementing the bond of union between master and servant. I have not failed to ascertain the opinion of several of the farmers on whose judgment I could rely, all are well satisfied with the working of the amended law; and many have made the observation that 'the labourers are already an altered class of persons.'"

The Rev. Dr. *Wrench*, minister of Salehurst:—"The positive good which has been wrought by the new Poor Law is, in the first place, that the public-houses and beer-shops are, without question, much less attended than before; that drunkenness is decidedly less frequently seen, and, I think, practised; and that, as I do not believe any increase has taken place in the number of robberies committed in this part of the country to supply the lacking means to the worst part of our pauper population, they are driven to be more moral and domestic characters than before.

"The next good effect of the new law is, the decided decrease in the number of improvident marriages, and this I know to be the case without referring to my register, and that marriage is considered a much more serious matter than formerly; but when I refer to my register, that informs me that from 25th March 1834 to the same date in 1835, there were 15 banns marriages, almost all characterized by improvidence; but that from 25th March 1835 to the same date in 1836, there were only five."

The Rev. *Joseph Gould*, minister of Burwash:—"The seeds of better things have been sown: impertinent labourers, who have been dismissed by their masters, have found that they could not, as heretofore, throw themselves upon the parish; and, after smarting for their folly, have been glad to get a job of hard task-work. Single young men have found, that, after gambling and dissipating away their earnings during harvest and hopping, they must not look to be supported during winter at the expense of others. A salutary dislike of the workhouse has arisen."

The Rev. *Henry Kelson*, minister of Folkington:—"The rates are much lower; the paupers most decidedly brought under the best possible control, from being almost outlaws; and nothing can work better than the new Poor Laws, of which the more I see of their operation the more I see to admire."

The Rev. *John Austen*, minister of Pulborough:—"We now begin to look for moral and religious improvement, as the hard-working men engaged in husbandry are become civil and attentive to their masters. Only two marriages have been solemnized since December last, the yearly average being 15, and only one bastard has been christened between 12th July 1835 and 17th May 1836."—The population of this parish is 1,979, according to the census of 1831.

John Baldock, esq. of Burwash:—"There is a decided improvement in the morals and manner of the labourers, for under the old system they demanded relief as their right and inheritance, and were very abusive unless it was granted with a liberal hand, even in cases where they had squandered away their earnings during the summer months in rioting and drunkenness. They are now much more civil and more provident. They also use greater exertions to obtain employment, and in many cases prevail on persons to give them work, because the employer has more confidence that they will do their endeavours to earn their wages and look to his interest, which before they were often regardless of; and it is seldom that the master has occasion to find fault with their work, or with their demeanour. They frequent the public-houses and beer-shops much less than they used to do. I should say, generally,

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generally, that both the rate-payers and the labourers are inclined to look at the new law with a much more favourable eye than they did at the commencement of the Union; indeed I have heard many of those who dreaded the consequences of acting upon the new system, express their astonishment at the quietness and peaceableness which has prevailed since, and particularly at the absence of that formidable body of surplus labourers which heretofore existed."

Mr. *J. Smith*, of Framfield:—" I think there is evidence of an improvement in the conduct of the labourers: they certainly show much more anxiety to procure work, and behave much better when in employment, being well aware that they have no alternative but the workhouse. This is a most admirable and necessary test, and I trust will tend ultimately to make them do from principle what I conceive is now the result of fear. The voice of murmuring has not yet ceased, but I think the complaints are less than might be expected under the serious alterations that have been made; and I am quite satisfied there is less dissipation among them than under the old system, and they are more with their families, evenings and nights, perhaps the result of being employed in the day; they are less inclined to roam at night after poaching, &c."

Mr. *Richard Mannington*, of Maresfield:—" In the parish of Maresfield, where I reside, under the old system we had many labourers out of employ, consisting chiefly of persons of unobliging dispositions, idle, careless and profligate in their habits: on all these the new Poor Law has produced an extraordinary change for the better. Thrown on their own resources they now respectfully solicit the labour they used to demand, and when they have got it they certainly take more pains to satisfy their employer than they used to do; they are now more provident of their earnings than they used to be, spend less on beer, and contribute more to the real wants of their families. In all such cases the moral effect has been excellent, and their domestic comforts greatly increased."

W. Roper, esq. of Frant:—" I am decidedly of opinion that the effect of the new law has been generally favourable as regards the manners and disposition of the labouring poor, more exertion is made to obtain employment, and when obtained they are more diligent and grateful for its benefit. They are at the same time more provident in their general habits, from a sense, I have no doubt, of its necessity to the comfort of themselves and families in a future season of privation."

A. Daintrey, esq., clerk to the Petworth Union:—" So far as a partial application of the spirit of the new law can enable us to form an opinion, the effect of it has been good. The pauper population have been perfectly quiet and orderly, and the relieving-officers have neither been subjected to violence nor insult in the execution of their duties. Drunkenness, and its usual accompaniments, riot and disorder, have sensibly diminished in the town of Petworth. Those moral pesthouses, the beer-shops, are less frequented, though none I believe have yet been put down by dearth of custom; and the pauper population is generally more respectful to those in office under the new system, than under the old, and infinitely less disposed to demand as a right that relief which the law has so humanely provided for them upon the footing of charity."

Mr. *James Russell*, of Bexhill:—" The morals and manners of the poor have improved I think, far beyond what the most sanguine supporters of the new Poor Laws could have expected: the altered manner in which they apply for work, as well as the anxiety they evince to continue in your employment, forms a singular contrast both with the indifference with which they formerly sought employment, or received their dismissal from it. The improvement is not confined to their intercourse with their masters, as the diminished attendance at the beer-shops and ale-houses fully testifies; applications for relief for wives and families, where the husband had spent his week's earnings at the beer-shop, were not formerly unfrequent, but no cases of this sort are ever heard of now. Instances have not been wanting in which the poor themselves have expressed a favourable opinion of the operation of the new law; but once only has it fallen under my own observation: this was the case of a labourer of my own, and the principal cause by him assigned for his opinion was, that parish employment was no longer found, and that the habitually idle and worthless labourer would no longer be placed on an equality with the industrious and upright one, which under the system of scale allowance was too generally the case. Great as has been the advantage already derived from the new poor law, I feel assured greater are still in reserve, and that the period is not far distant when, by the economy and increased industry of the poor, and the pleasant feelings of independence which the rescuing them from pauperism must create, they themselves will admit it to be a measure beneficial to all classes of the community."

Mr. *Joseph Filder*, of Eastbourne:—" The morals of the labouring population I consider as much improved, they are more constant at a place of Divine worship, more obliging and desirous to have a good understanding with their employers, and perform all orders with much more cheerfulness than formerly; they certainly frequent the beer-shops less than formerly."

Mr. *Arnold Denman*, of Willingdon:—" The benefit derived in this parish from the moral improvement wrought in the general conduct and demeanor of the working class is beyond all previously formed conception. I had anticipated much, but more has resulted. The industrious and well-disposed have found and continued in employment, with very few exceptions; and they appear to, and in fact do, keep up the requisite observances, both as to hours and a general disposition to labour, from a fear of being turned off; whereas 12 months since they courted discharge, that an equal rate of payment might be extended to them from the parish fund, for which no return was made. They are daily becoming more of servants; and as the excitement occasioned by so important a change in their condition wears away,

I observe

I observe greater uniformity of good conduct, more disposition to govern their temper, and an evident increase of content; they are more thankful now for employment at 10*s.* than formerly at 12*s.* per week; and when in possession of their earnings, little, if any, is spent at the public-house."

Henry Mason, esq., clerk to the Rye Union:—"Good effects have already began to manifest themselves from the new Poor Law; and, considering the short time which has elapsed since the formation of the Union in October last, they are quite as much as could reasonably be expected. At the season corresponding to the present during last year, the parishes in this neighbourhood were much inconvenienced from the union clubs, which the labourers had formed amongst themselves, so much so, that great difficulty was found in procuring sufficient hands to do the work so necessary to be done at that time. The labourers also expressed great dissatisfaction at the wages which they were then receiving,* notwithstanding the large reliefs which were granted in many parishes. Instead of such being the case at the present time, I am not aware that there is a single union club in existence; within our own district there is more general satisfaction felt, and a much greater desire manifested to obtain work; no instances of tumult or disorder have occurred, although, as might be expected, the measure was but little relished.

* 12*s.* per week.

"Some good has no doubt been experienced in a moral sense from the effects which have been felt by the beer-shopkeepers, many of whom bitterly complain of their reduced custom. I have been informed of instances where the consumption has diminished a third; but these cases are among the lower description of houses; all of them feel it, although those of a better kind are less affected. Wages are about the same as last year, but the labourers are more generally employed."

George Whiteman, esq., clerk of the Eastbourne Union:—"I think it is manifest that the moral condition of the labourer is fast improving in this, as in most other Unions. They are decidedly more civil and orderly, and their conduct evinces that the measure has had the effect of making them treat with respect those to whom heretofore they behaved insultingly. I consider the proper relation between master and servant to be every day more thoroughly understood by the latter, and the value of a good character more duly appreciated."

The following is an extract of a letter from *Robert Trotter*, esq., a magistrate for the county of Sussex, and chairman of the board of guardians of the Cuckfield Union, dated Borde Hill, 27 May 1836:—

"The following are facts which have all come under my own observation, and I detail them in the hope that they may be serviceable:

"The general character of the labourer is, I firmly believe, rapidly changing for the better; one of the most striking features of this improvement, and of which during the last six or eight months I have seen very many instances, is the much greater anxiety they evince to obtain employment. Under the old system they applied for work, apparently very indifferent whether they obtained it or not; they had the parish stone-pit to fall back upon, and cared little for being refused other work. Now I find that they literally beg and importune for employment, and are with difficulty got rid of when the occasion for that employment has ceased; and in cases where I have declined to give work to any particular applicant, he has frequently returned day after day, till in general he has succeeded in obtaining it. It is to this earnestness in their request for employment, and the anxiety of the labourer to keep his situation, that I, in a great measure, attribute the absorption of labour; for in few, if any, of the parishes of this Union have there been so many out of work this winter as formerly. Those who get work are grateful for it, and as an instance I refer to this fact; a man to whom I gave employment from a distant parish, when work was very scarce, told me a few days since that his wife had bought a couple of chickens, and intended fatting them and giving them to me, adding, that she said I had been a friend to them by giving him work when out of employment, and now she would be a friend to me. Another, from the same parish, told me, a few days since, that he was as happy as the day was long, now that he had got work.

"I regret much that this feeling is not more cordially met by the farmers generally; in very many instances they do not employ men either in proportion to the size of their farms, or to what is absolutely necessary for their proper and profitable cultivation; if they did so, even in a slight degree, the talk of surplus population would cease, from the fact of no such thing existing. This they ought to do, because it can seldom, with truth, be urged that the farmer cannot afford it. One farmer in this neighbourhood, in stating that farmers did not employ the number of hands required for the proper cultivation of their farms, said, 'The farmers object that they cannot find money to pay them; but that is nonsense, they can always find ways and means to pay for labour, if they choose it.' In an instance within my own knowledge, a parish officer applied to a large farmer, who never employs a fair proportion of hands, to take on an additional man, pointing out to him that between June 1835 and June 1836 he would save 40*l.* in rates upon his farm alone; and saying, 'Now give 10*l.* of this for additional labour, and put the other 30*l.* into your pocket.' This very reasonable request was however refused; still, I think, I can see among the better class of farmers an inclination to employ more men, and at better wages.

"All the labourers that I have spoken to express a great desire for what they term 'the constant stream.' Some in my employment, who now have 12*s.* per week, have said they would rather work for me for 10*s.* per week the whole year, including harvest, extra hours and all, than go off for a good harvest with the uncertainty of work at other times; and they declare this to be the general feeling. About six or seven weeks since several labourers in

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my service asked whether I had any objection to their going off to timber-felling (a work at which they might earn 3*s.* per day), at the same time saying they did not wish to go if I wanted them; and asking whether I would take them on again when they had finished. I willingly consented to their going, but said I could not absolutely promise to take them on again, as I might be obliged to get other men, if the work I wanted done could not be delayed; but that I certainly would employ them again if I could find them any work. The result was that not one left me. In the absence, however, of sufficient employment, a wish to emigrate appears to be gradually springing up; not as heretofore only amongst the more industrious, but those of indifferent character now seem the most anxious to go, and among them some who have constantly been, and most probably would always remain, a burden to their parish. In one parish, a man with a family, and two or three single young men (all of indifferent character), are now anxious to be sent to Canada. One young man is on the point of going to Van Diemen's Land; and he tells me that some others have written to the Emigration Department, in hopes of being sent out. I also find labourers very anxious to obtain small allotments of land. I have commenced giving some this spring, and have now 14 or 15 allotments, varying from half to one quarter of an acre. They are very industrious in cultivating them, and I shall have many more next year. Mr. Allen, of Lindfield, also informs me, that he finds the men eager for small pieces of land, who formerly were indifferent about it, saying, 'The vestry will not relieve us if we have a piece of land.'

"An increasing desire to deposit in the savings' bank is also another gratifying proof of improvement. The Cuckfield Savings' Bank opened on the 1st of last January, and has hitherto had to contend with the most unfavourable season of the year for labourers' saving, both from the scarcity of work and lowness of wages; but the number of depositors are now increasing, and, from the favourable way in which it is generally talked of by the labourers, will undoubtedly continue to do so. I know some labourers, with families of two and three, and one with four small children, who are regular depositors, with wages of 12*s.* per week, and no other advantage whatever.

"We have some very large depositors among the labouring class who have been in the habit of saving, one to the amount of 30*l.*, another of 20*l.*; and I hear of others coming who have saved largely, showing what can be done by care and industry.

"Improvident marriages are also, I believe, diminishing; and the diminished number of marriages this year, in comparison with the two last, seems to confirm this belief. The numbers between June 1833 and June 1834, were 14; between 1834 and 1835, 12; between 1835 and 1836, 9. My authority for these assertions is the parish register of my own parish. Another class of marriages seems nearly at an end. Formerly a young woman with two or three illegitimate children was looked upon as a fortune, and could at any time get married for the sake of the parish allowance to those children. A case happened a short time since in this parish, where, after the parties had been out-asked in church, the man refused to marry, he having in the meantime discovered that he would have to maintain the children.

"Beer-shops, too, are on the decline; wherever I have had an opportunity of inquiring from persons likely to know, I am told the decrease of custom is very great.

"With regard to the introduction of the new rule of taking off all out-door relief from able-bodied paupers, except in cases of sickness or urgent necessity, which is to come in force on the 21st of June, I do not apprehend there will be any difficulty. I have been told six months since by labourers, that they wished all relief was taken off, as they would then all be equal; and upon inquiry from one much amongst the labourers, and likely to hear any complaint, I was answered, "I never heard any men complain in the least at all relief being to be taken off in June; a man with four or five children to support can do ever so much now with 12*s.* a week." My opinion of the new rule working well (independent of the knowledge of its having worked well in other Unions) is founded upon the fact of all relief having, from the first, been taken off from non-residents in this Union, and not six having come home to their parishes; I believe I might say much fewer. Moreover, amongst the residents with families relief has been always taken off where any of the children have been ordered to the workhouse school; and between the 6th of November and the 18th of March the number ordered were, boys, 109; girls, 106; of these the number who went were, boys, 16; girls, 10; the parents continuing to keep the others at home without relief. I have heard some farmers say they shall increase their labourers' wages upon the new rule coming into force, or do something for them, so that if they did not receive it in malt they might in meal. One farmer told me he should not increase his wages, but he had put his rents at 1*s.* per week, and given his labourers an acre between four, furnishing manure and seed potatoes, which last he took back out of the crop, leaving them, as he reckoned, about 80 bushels of potatoes each upon an average, so making the increase of their comforts arise from increased industry.

"The shopkeepers begin to see that it is the independent labourer alone that can now be of any benefit to them. A shopkeeper, I know, has exerted himself much this last winter to keep the labourer in employment; and when otherwise unsuccessful, he being surveyor of the roads, has employed them there very advantageously at fair wages.

"About three weeks before Lady-day great fears were expressed for the consequences that would arise from rents being no longer paid; that distresses for rent would be very general at Lady-day, and that there would be a very considerable number of labourers turned out of their cottages, and thus an alarming number of paupers thrown upon our hands, for whom it would be most difficult to provide. Two months have now elapsed since that time, and I have only heard of one application having been made to the Board, on the grounds of the applicant's goods being distrained for rent. This was refused, and I have not heard of the

the man's things having been sold. This regulation relates to all paupers indiscriminately the payment of rents for able-bodied male paupers having ceased since the first formation of the Union, in accordance with the rule. Landlords will and do find that rents must come down; the parish no longer paying them, it will be impossible to obtain 6*l.*, or even 5*l.* per annum for a small cottage without even a garden, which was frequently the rent demanded in this neighbourhood. A lady called a few days since upon an old woman in this neighbourhood, when the following conversation took place: 'Well, Mrs. Walder, how is your daughter going on?' 'Oh! she is quite well, but has been a little troubled lately, and the parish pays no rent now, but the boys clubbed together and paid it for her.' 'And who are the boys?' 'Oh! her sons.' 'And I dare say they had a great deal of pleasure in doing it?' 'Yes, they did feel a great deal of pleasure.'

"I am informed by clergymen in some of the parishes of the Union, that they perceive a marked improvement in the conduct of the labouring classes; and one of the guardians informed me, that in his parish their attendance at church is very strikingly more regular, and that instead of the church being half filled, you may now see labourers standing in the aisle.

"It has been stated that as much good might have been effected by the parishes themselves, without the intervention of boards of guardians; but this is far from being confirmed by the way in which relief was administered in this Union before the Board took the management into their hands. In one parish, although general instructions had been sent to the overseers from the Central Board, the expenditure in the quarter ending at Midsummer last was 202*l.*; in the three quarters under the new system, from Midsummer to Lady-day last, it was 262*l.* I shall merely add, that the averages of the different parishes in this Union before its formation, amounted to 17,136*l.*; and that the first year of the new law, from Midsummer to Midsummer, amounts to 8,488*l.* I have, &c. *Robert Trotter.*"

Effect of the new law upon the labouring classes, in rendering them more solicitous to obtain employment for their children.

28. My attention has been anxiously turned to another effect of the new measure, from which there not only results a present advantage to parents with large families, but through which incalculable benefits will be stored up for the rising generation. I allude to the exertions which the abolition of out-door relief to the able-bodied has rendered it imperative upon that class of paupers to make, in order to increase their means by the employment of their children.

Debasing effects of the old system on the peasantry.

29. Under the old system, lucky was the man who could display the greatest number of ragged and dirty children before the eyes of the pitying overseer! He knew that in proportion to their raggedness and apparently destitute condition relief would be extended to him, and consequently that it was a more profitable speculation to him to keep them in idleness at home than to procure employment for them abroad: hence have arisen many of the causes which have deteriorated the character of the peasantry of the present day. A father formerly never dreamed of instructing his sons in the various duties of their agricultural calling. The man who can dig a ditch is frequently incapable of making the hedge which is to protect it; one man is only skilful at threshing, whilst another can only mow; too many, in fact, are deplorably uninstructed in those numerous little arts which render a labourer what is termed "a handy fellow," and which ensure him constant employment at all seasons of the year.

And on their children.

30. No species of business transacted by magistrates at the petty sessions has been so frequent as that arising out of the offences committed by children, in breaking the hedges, robbing the turnip fields, &c. of the farmers, at the instigation of their parents, who thus early inculcating lessons of immorality and vice, have laid the foundation of that ruin which has but too frequently followed the vicious career of their progeny, and which, had they placed them out at service, would in all probability have been averted by the vigilant eye and example of a master. On these points I speak from experience, having seen but too many instances of the pernicious effects which have resulted from keeping children at home for the purpose of increasing the amount of head money.

Improvement effected by the new measures in obliging them to seek employment for their children.

31. The operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act in this district has, however, already effected a change in a custom so destructive of all habits of industry, forethought and morality. My own observations and inquiries authorize the assertion, and it is confirmed by accounts which daily reach me from all quarters of my district, of the exertions which the labourers are making to obtain situations and employment for their children. So much have these embryo sinews of the agricultural arm been already called into play, that complaints have been frequently made to me of the impossibility of obtaining the services of a boy even to run on an errand, in quarters where formerly the employer might have had the choice of the whole family.

To instruct them in the arts of their calling;

32. It is a constant observation that the services of the children are now much more extensively put into requisition by their parents than heretofore, and that they take them more frequently into the fields to assist them in their occupations. And the custom of the mother of a family carrying her infant with her in its cradle into the harvest field, rather than lose the opportunity of adding her earnings to the general stock, though partially practised before, is becoming much more general now.

and to correct them when disobedient.

33. I have heard of several cases where fathers have severely chastised their sons for misbehaviour which was likely to have caused them the loss of their situation, at the same time importuning their masters to overlook the fault, a feeling which was seldom exhibited under the old system, when they knew that if their children lost their places from their own misconduct, they would instantly obtain an allowance for them from the parish purse.

34. Out of the numerous evidences which I have collected, corroborative of these facts,

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Confirmed by the evidence of the employers of agricultural labourers.

I subjoin the following as proofs that a re-action is taking place in the character of the labouring classes highly beneficial to their children as well as to themselves.

The Rev. *J. Austen*, rector of Pulborough, informs me as follows: "We have had two descriptions of labourers at Pulborough; viz. those who are scattered over the different farms in the parish, and work for the occupiers, and those who have lived in what are termed 'the streets,' who for the most part sought their subsistence from the parish, and were placed in stone pits, and on the roads. Nearly all the latter have left us in consequence of the new poor law; many more having gone to the Southampton railroad since my last Report, and are earning good wages. The first-named class have always been hard-working labourers, and have endeavoured, as far as they were allowed, to bring up their children in industrious habits, and dreaded their being sent to the parish roads and pits, but in many cases submitted to it to obtain the pay. Since this has ceased they exert themselves to get them into farmers' service as carter-boys, and they are now anxious to keep their situations. Many of the farmers employ their labourers' children; I employ the boys of all mine who cannot obtain better situations, and their fathers are careful to instruct them in their work.

"The following is a list of my men and their children:

LABOURERS' NAMES.	Number of Children.	Children in my Service.	Children in other Service.
John Greenfield	7	3	1
James Standen	10	1	2
R. Barnerd	6	1	1
W. Collins	7	1	3
J. Peryer	9	1	3
— Parrier	7	-	7
T. Streeter	10	-	10
H. Hampshire	1	1	-
A. Waidy	8	8	-
T. Ayling, F. Daughtry	Children all grown up and out at service.		

"Six months after the stone pits are deserted is rather too early to talk of moral and professional education; but I have never had so many applications to send children to school as at present, and myself and wife have increased our number at daily schools from 50 to 60; girls' school, 12; boys' school, 30; and at three dames' schools, six each (18); total, 60. We have no men or boys out of employ, and they are all aware that upon their good behaviour and attention to their work their subsistence now depends; and the occupiers of land readily allow that a great alteration for the better has taken place in their conduct."

Mr. *Bray*, of Westfield, in the Battle Union, formerly much opposed to the new law:—"The labourers in our parish are certainly more anxious to get employment for themselves and families. I had an instance this morning. In consequence of earnest solicitation, I took into my employ, a short time ago, a lad of the name of Ray; a gentleman asked me to recommend him a lad as a servant, and not particularly wanting the one, I got him the situation. Next morning the father came early, wishing me to employ his next boy, which I did. Two years ago I must have gone round to find a boy whose parents would let him come to work; now they come to me to ask for it."

Mr. *Spencer Crisford*, of Sedlescomb:—"Before the operation of the new law we had at Sedlescomb about 20 surplus hands; now we have not had one man, boy or girl. I attribute it to their being now anxious to get and keep in employment. I observe that George Apps, Robert Stapley, James Sellins and Samuel Spears, who work for me, have lately brought their boys to work with them; the two first two boys each, and the other one each. I consider they would not have done so at their age, but for the alteration in the system of relief."

Mr. *Chrismas*, of Bexhill:—"Stephen Hubberfield has worked for me a long time; I never knew his wife ask for a day's work in the fields, haying, harvesting or weeding, before; but since all relief has been stopped, the wife not only is glad of a job, but the two eldest children are constantly asking me for employment, which I occasionally find them, as far as I am able."

J. Fairlie, Esq., of Wakehurst-place:—"I think there is considerable improvement in regard to the desire of the labourers in the parish of Ardingly to find employment for the younger members of their families, the parents finding that no hands should be left when something is to be earned, to make up for the profuse and ill-judged allowances formerly given."

Mr. *Knight*, of the parish of Barcomb, in the Charley Union:—"Widow Parsons, of Barcomb, would not allow her son to go to service until the relief granted her by the board was reduced. The lad is now in employment."

J. Posthlethwaite, Esq., Chairman of the Westbourn Union:—"James Jacobs, of Westbourn, an industrious labourer with six children under 12 years of age, had ceased to receive parish pay, and from a failure of the turnip crop was unable to obtain his usual employment in the harvest of 1835. With his two eldest daughters he left his home for the first time, travelling eastward for the purpose of picking hops. At Burwash, about 60 miles off, he succeeded and worked profitably for three weeks. He reported on his return, 'that hop-pickers

pickers were much in request, and that 60 Irishmen had worked near him, when Englishmen would have been preferred." I have since employed the family, and find that the daughters now often work with their mother, alternating field labour with going to school, causing them to be more healthy, more happy and less-poor."

Captain *Allen* and Messrs. *Smith* and *Cousens*, Guardians of the Westbourn Union:—"Mary Fletcher, wife of Thomas Fletcher, of Westbourn, applied to Mr. Smith in the hay season to employ herself and two boys, which he consented to do. The next day she asked him to take a third boy also, but he declined on account of the youth of the child. At her request he, however, afterwards consented, on condition that she would undertake to see that all did their best, and the consequence was, that they gave him so much satisfaction that he afterwards employed the two younger boys in cleaning bricks. Mr. Smith is of opinion, that under the old system there would not have been such anxiety on the part of the mother, or such good conduct on the part of the children, nor would there, as he conceives, have been such inclination to employ them, the improvement in the labourers, and the saving of rates, being encouragements to employers to undertake work which would otherwise have gone undone. There is also the hope of improving and benefiting the labourer, which operates strongly on their superiors now, but under the old system was entirely lost."

"Daniel Barton, of Westbourn, has a large family, and before the Union was a great expense to the parish, but he now supports his family without any assistance of the kind, and the difference is, in the opinion of the guardians, entirely attributable to the employment of his children."

Communication from *J. M. Norman*, Esq., of Slaugham, in the Cuckfield Union, relative to a Case which he considers decidedly referable to the Operation of the New Law:—"William Upton, of Dencombe, works for me; he always employs his son John; the elder boy, Joseph, 16 or 17 years of age, the father got work for in the winter, at Brantbridge, and he was turned off in the spring to make way for another boy, at less wages, when the father was very anxious to get him a fresh place, and asked leave to be off one day's work to look out for a situation for the boy, and after some little time, got him one at Spicer's, where the boy still works."

Mr. *Burtenshaw*, Guardian of Clayton, in the Cuckfield Union, a Case traceable to the same cause:—"William Waller, a pauper, of Clayton, has, during the present year, employed his three sons (children) in stone picking, and has shown great anxiety to keep them employed."

George Augustus Shawe, Esq., Guardian of the Havant Union:—"In my own parish it appears to me, that taking off all relief has compelled the labourers to look out for situations for their children, or to make them work in some way or other for their livelihood. I would instance King, Teague, Small, Pitt, Ford and others, who have applied to me to obtain berths on board King's ships for their sons, which I am happy to say I have succeeded in doing for two or three of them. A man named Jacobs, who, as long as relief was given to him, had two daughters, 18 or 19 years of age, constantly at home with him, upon the plea that they were too weakly to work, has now got situations for both of them. Shawyer and Terry, by trade fishermen, who were constantly on the relief-list, on the plea that they had large families, and could not earn sufficient to maintain them, now send their children out daily with shrimps, cockles, &c. Two persons, namely, Soane and Hunt, having girls in the workhouse, have applied to take them out, the former alleging that she expects to get employment for her girls in a sacking manufactory; the other stating that another daughter, who is living at Brighton, will take the one now in the house, and keep her, if the guardians will clothe her."

The Rev. *H. Fowle*, Minister of Winchfield, in the Hartley Wintney Union:—"A labourer in my employ, named Dodd, has a wife and six small children, for whom (being considered under the old law as an object of relief,) he had been allowed some weekly payment, besides having part of his rent, (amounting in all to 2*l.* 10*s.*) defrayed by the parish. Notwithstanding these advantages, this man was proverbially poor, and had received notice to quit his house at the time the new law commenced, from his inability to pay the remaining part of the rent. I found him prepared to leave his house, as he entirely despaired of being able to support his family without parochial assistance. Upon this I represented to him that, in case his family could afford me so much labour on my farm, he might still be enabled to go on, and I offered to take his boy of 12 years old to work with him, and to find his wife occasional employment. To this he gladly acceded, and their earnings are as follows: husband, 10*s.*; wife, 3*s.* 6*d.*; boy, 2*s.*; total 15*s.* 6*d.* per week. The wife has employment only during the summer months; the boy is with his father the whole year, and last year he paid the whole of his rent the day it was due. A short time since I dismissed the boy for telling a wilful falsehood, the father immediately gave him a sound flogging, observing that a liar was of no use, either to me as master, or to him as father, and expressing his sorrow at his son's misconduct, which had thus reduced his weekly earnings. I was so pleased at the good sense and proper feeling evinced by the father on this occasion, that I directly reinstated the boy in his place, which, had he not noticed his ill-behaviour, I certainly should not have done. Now, although I am far from thinking that the father's good judgment in this case resulted entirely from the operation of the poor law, still I am prepared to say, that had the boy been depending upon parochial relief, instead of upon character for support, his fault would most likely have passed unnoticed and unpunished."

Mr. *Easter*, guardian of the parish of Strathfieldsaye, in the Basingstoke Union, informs me, "The labourers generally in this district are more anxious than they used to be to obtain employment for their children, when they are not sent to the village or other schools, and as soon as they arrive at an age to leave that, they take them into the fields and

Appendix (B.)
No. 3.
Report of *W. H. T. Haxley*, Esq.

nstruct them in their own several useful modes of labour, and exhibit certainly a more anxious desire for their moral instruction and improvement than formerly. Independent of these general observations, I know that two labourers, James Bartlett, Joseph Woolford, and others in agricultural employ, have their boys working with themselves; that John Dollery, a bricklayer, has a son with him employed as a labourer; and many others in the parish are adopting the same plan for bettering their family condition. Upon the whole, the parochial population is much improved recently in their manner of executing work, and their exertions much increased, in order to obtain a better livelihood. Generally, work is by the piece. The children are put to school when young, and when old enough for labour are employed in the fields with their parents; and those not old enough to work are sent to school."

Mr. *Lunn*, guardian of the parish of Preston Landover, in the Basingstoke Union:—"The labouring class generally are more anxious, and exert themselves in getting employment for their families. I could mention John Greenaway for one, who has a wife and eight children; he is a most industrious man, and has succeeded in obtaining employment for all his children that are old enough to work; and those and his younger children are strictly attended to by their father as to their moral conduct and education; and the younger ones are sent to school; and he attends himself with his family regularly at the parish church."

These cases are all attributable to the operation of the new law.

Mr. *Gilbert*, Schoolmaster of the National School at Frant, in the Ticehurst Union:—"In answer to your inquiries for information as to the children of labourers, I can vouch for a fact, in this part the children are beginning to be taken much younger to work than they were formerly, evidently more with a desire of their learning something, than any other motive. It will, therefore, I think, follow, as a matter of course, that national schools will feel it in loss of attendance of children of any size, and that therefore they will not have the opportunity of receiving so good an education as heretofore."

From memoranda kept by Mr. *Reed*, the national schoolmaster at Burwash, it appears, that the difference in the average of the number of the days, and of the number of boys obtaining leave of absence from the school on account of obtaining work for the undermentioned corresponding quarters of the years 1835 and 1836, was as follows:

	Number of Days in the Quarter, at Six Days to a Week.	Number of Boys belonging to the School.	Average of Daily Attendance.	Difference between the corresponding Quarter.
Quarters ending 4 April 1835	78	99	82	10
— 2 April 1836	78	97	72	
— 4 July 1835	70	109	74	12
— 2 July 1836	70	104	62	

General confirmation of the beneficial effects of the new measures.

35. That I may not further multiply instances of effects of this nature produced upon parents with large families, I will only add that nearly all the boards of guardians in my district have forwarded me reports expressive of their conviction that the new measure has already exercised its influence most extensively in this respect; that considerable moral improvement is perceptible, both in parents and in children; and that they have no doubt that its operation during the next 12 months will produce still more striking proofs of its efficacy.

Improved state of the parish of Selborne.

36. My appointment to the superintendency of the Unions in North and East Hampshire has been too recent to allow me to collect materials to authenticate generally the satisfactory working of the new measures in that quarter; but I am convinced, from the observations I have at present had an opportunity of making, that the result of its application to that district, deeply pauperised as too many of its parishes previously were, is equally as striking as the success which has attended its progress in the county of Sussex; and the improvement which has taken place in the parish of Selborne, in the Alton Union, affords such positive evidence of the fact, that I am induced to bring it forward as a collateral proof of a reformation which I feel confident has been effected in a greater or less degree throughout the whole of that district. This parish, possessing natural advantages beyond almost any other spot which the county can produce, has not been less celebrated for the beauty and richness of its scenery, than for the poverty and demoralized condition of its rural population, arising out of former parochial misrule and mismanagement.

Former mismanagement.

37. It was in this retired hamlet that, in the disturbances of the year 1830, a mob of 300 labourers assembled, who, after committing various outrages, proceeded at length to attack the workhouse, which they almost entirely demolished. At this period Selborne appears to have shared so largely in the mischievous policy which directed the parish counsels of the day, as easily to account for any spirit of insubordination which might have displayed itself. Not less than forty able-bodied labourers, thrown out of employment, were either wasting their time in idleness, or if set to work by the parish, were doing next to no work at all on the highways. Such was the system still pursued up to the year 1835, when it was only checked by the interference of the new law. In this and the previous year there had not been less than from 43 to 50 able-bodied men totally unemployed or working on the roads.

38. The

38. The allowance made to a pauper when unemployed, was 6*s.* per week for himself and wife; when employed, 8*s.*; and when there happened to be a family, relief was given according to its number, varying from 8*s.* to 12*s.* per week. In addition to this class of paupers, were 40 (or more) able men working for farmers, who were receiving assistance from the parish in aid of their wages, regulated according to the number of the children, as in the case of the unemployed paupers. By the Parliamentary Returns of 1831, it appears that the total number of agricultural labourers in this parish was 82. So that the parish of Selborne had not only pauperised all the able-bodied, but (as the aged and infirm, and children, were also pensioners on the parish purse) in fact the whole of her rural population. Allowance to paupers.

39. The sums illegally arising from the pockets of the poorer rate-payers to remunerate and encourage idleness, were spent in riot and debauchery. The village ale-house was a constant scene of turbulence and intoxication, the more respectable inhabitants were afraid to venture from their homes after nightfall, and complete anarchy may be said to have prevailed in this secluded region, so eminently formed by nature for the quietude, contentment and happiness of its inhabitants. Disorganized state of the parish.

40. Pecuniary profusion keeping pace with the moral excess, had raised the parochial expenditure in the year 1834 to 1,405*l.* 10*s.*; in 1835 it had undergone a trifling diminution, and amounted to only 1,103*l.* 3*s.* 11¼*d.*; but even thus reduced, it considerably exceeded the amount of 1*l.* per head on the whole population of the parish, which by the last census was proved to be 924. Parochial expenditure.

41. It is a grateful part of my duty to turn from this picture of desolating mismanagement, and report the improvement which, under the operation of the new poor law, has, almost as it were by magic, taken place in the condition of this once devoted parish. Reformation effected by the Poor Law.

42. During the last quarter, ended 25th July, only 49 paupers were relieved from the parish funds; of these, seven only were in the workhouse, whereas formerly there were never less than 30; the remaining 42 were out-door paupers, the whole of them either infirm, aged, or children, not one able-bodied labourer was in the receipt of relief for himself or any part of his family, nor was there a man out of employment throughout the whole parish. In the extent of pauperism.

43. The total expenditure for the quarter was 97*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, which, multiplied by four, will give 389*l.* 1*s.*, the total expenditure for one year. This, compared with the expenditure of the year 1835, will show a saving amounting to nearly two-thirds. In the amount of expenditure.

44. The accounts which I have received of the moral effect produced by a change of system, are equally as satisfactory as those which relate to pauperism and expenditure. Sobriety and orderly behaviour have succeeded to riot and drunkenness. Relief is no longer demanded as a right, but gratefully received as a boon; an anxiety is everywhere displaying itself amongst the labourers to procure employment for themselves and situations for their children. The means of their subsistence now obtained independently by their own industrious exertions, are no longer dissipated at the beer-shop like the easily earned, and therefore lightly appreciated dole from the parish purse, and a wish to oblige their employers, is everywhere observable. In fact a reformation has been worked in the character of the agricultural labourer commensurate with that in the administration of parochial affairs, the depravity of the former having been solely produced by the abuses of the latter, and with them having disappeared. In the moral character of the poor.

45. In confirmation of these observations, I beg to subjoin an extract from a letter addressed to the Secretary of the Commission by the rector of the parish, the Rev. W. Cobbold: Conclusion.

"I beg to inform you, what I am sure it will give you much pleasure to hear, that as far as I have been able to make my observation since the Act came into operation here, which is rather more than a twelvemonth, nothing can possibly work better, not only in the immense saving it will cause in the hitherto wasteful and lavish expenditure of the parochial funds, but also in the effect it seems likely to have in improving the morals and manners of the people, which I consider of much greater consequence than the other. It is to the operation of this Act entirely, by withholding from the labourers the means of frequenting the public-houses and beer-shops, that I attribute the present peace and quiet of the street as compared with what it used to be, particularly of an evening, I may say indeed the greater part of the night, and more particularly in the winter season, when the noise and turbulence of the idle and dissolute have been such that I have been almost afraid to go to bed. This improvement began to take place in the winter of 1834, when the parish officers, in anticipation of the new Poor Law Amendment Act, first adopted the plan of paying the unemployed labourer partially in kind; and last winter, when the Act came into full operation, the improvement in this respect was still greater; it passed off indeed without the least noise or disturbance whatever in the street, a circumstance so extraordinary that I could not help remarking it to my neighbour, stating at the same time the cause to which I attribute it; and I have every reason to think that this improvement will be progressive. Indeed, I consider the Poor Law Amendment Act as one of the greatest blessings that could have been conferred on a parish like Selborne; and I do not despair now, as I told Mr. Senior the other day, when he called on me, of seeing the rude people of this place become perfectly civilized, and of a very different character to what they have hitherto borne."

46. With this extract, I conclude my report. I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners, London.

W. H. T. Hawley,
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Appendix (B.)

No. 3.
Report of
W. H. T. Hawley, Esq.

Supplement to Mr. Hawley's Report.

Schedule (A.)—Statement of Expenditure in the Unions in the County of *Sussex*, for the Quarter ending 25 December 1835, showing the Decrease on the Average Expenditure of the Three Years previous to the formation of the Unions.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
No. 1.—Rye Union:						
One quarter's expenditure, including out-door relief in maintenance and establishment charges	-	-	-	1,377	-	-
Amount of one year's expenditure under the averages	11,588	-	-			
Amount of one year, calculated on the last quarter	5,508	-	-			
Saving (52 ½ per cent.) on the average expenditure	-	-	-	6,080	-	-
No. 2.—Ticehurst Union:						
Amount of expenditure on the poor for the quarter	-	-	-	1,569	-	-
Amount of one year's expenditure under the averages	10,915	-	-			
Amount of one year's expenditure, calculated on the quarter	6,278	-	-			
Saving (42 per cent.) on the average expenditure	-	-	-	4,637	-	-
No. 3.—Hastings Union:						
Amount of expenditure on the poor for the quarter	-	-	-	1,319	9	5
Amount of one year's expenditure under the averages	6,969	-	-			
Amount of one year's expenditure, calculated on the quarter	5,276	-	-			
Saving (24 per cent.) on the average expenditure	-	-	-	1,693	-	-
No. 4.—Battle Union:						
Amount of expenditure on the poor for the quarter	-	-	-	1,296	4	1
Amount of one year's expenditure under the averages	14,233	-	-			
Amount of one year's expenditure, calculated on the quarter	5,184	-	-			
Saving (60 ¾ per cent.) on the average expenditure	-	-	-	9,049	-	
No. 5.—Uckfield Union:						
Amount of expenditure on the poor for the quarter	-	-	-	1,479	19	6
Amount of one year's expenditure under the averages	16,643	-	-			
Amount of one year's expenditure, calculated on the quarter	5,920	-	-			
Saving (64 per cent.) on the average expenditure	-	-	-	10,723	-	-
No. 6.—Eastbourne Union:	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Amount of expenditure on the poor for the quarter	-	-	-	1,410	7	10 ¼
Amount of one year's expenditure under the averages	11,961	-	-			
Amount of one year's expenditure, calculated on the quarter	5,641	-	-			
Saving (53 per cent.) on the average expenditure	-	-	-	6,320	-	-
No. 7.—Newhaven Union:						
Amount of expenditure on the poor for the quarter	-	-	-	492	15	10
Amount of one year's expenditure under the averages	3,371	-	-			
Amount of one year's expenditure, calculated on the quarter	1,971	-	-			
Saving (41 per cent.) on the average expenditure	-	-	-	1,400	-	-
No. 8.—West Firle Union:						
Amount of expenditure on the poor for the quarter	-	-	-	539	8	3
Amount of one year's expenditure, under the averages	2,937	-	-			
Amount of one year's expenditure, calculated on the quarter	2,157	-	-			
Saving (27 per cent.) on the average expenditure	-	-	-	780	-	-

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
No. 9.—Lewes Union:						
Amount of expenditure on the poor for the quarter -	-	-	-	912	19	10
Amount of one year's expenditure, under the averages -	5,770	–	–			
Amount of one year's expenditure, calculated on the quarter - - - - - - - - - - -	3,651	–	–			
Saving (36 ⅔ per cent.) on the average expenditure -	-	-	-	2,119	–	–
No. 10.—Cuckfield Union:						
Amount of expenditure on the poor for the quarter -	-	-	-	2,136	5	2
Amount of one year's expenditure, under the averages -	17,136	–	–			
Amount of one year's expenditure, calculated on the quarter - - - - - - - - - - -	8,545	–	–			
Saving (50 per cent.) on the average expenditure - -	-	-	-	8,591	–	–
No. 11.—Horsham Union:						
No correct return made of this Union.						
No. 12.—Thakeham Union.						
Amount of expenditure on the poor for the quarter -	-	-	-	1,313	2	6
Amount of one year's expenditure under the averages -	9,799	–	–			
Amount of one year's expenditure, calculated on the quarter - - - - - - - - - - -	5,252	–	–			
Saving (45 per cent.) on the average expenditure - -	-	-	-	4,547	–	
No. 13.—Steyning Union.						
Amount of expenditure on the poor for the quarter -	-	-	-	1,120	12	11 ½
Amount of one year's expenditure under the averages -	9,069	–	–			
Amount of one year's expenditure, calculated on the quarter - - - - - - - - - - -	4,480	–	–			
Saving (50 per cent.) on the average expenditure - -	-	-	-	4,589	–	
No. 14.—Midhurst Union.						
Amount of expenditure on the poor for the quarter -	-	-	-	1,478	8	4 ½
Amount of one year's expenditure under the averages -	17,543	–	–			
Amount of one year's expenditure, calculated on the quarter - - - - - - - - - - -	5,913	–	–			
Saving (65 per cent.) on the average expenditure - -	-	-	-	11,630	-	–
No. 15.—Westbourne Union.						
Amount of expenditure on the poor for the quarter -	-	-	-	1,753	18	5 ½
Amount of one year's expenditure under the averages -	8,095	–	–			
Amount of one year's expenditure, calculated on the quarter - - - - - - - - - - -	7,012	–	–			
Saving (10 ½ per cent.) on the average expenditure -	-	-	-	1,083	–	–
No. 16.—Chailey Union.						
Amount of expenditure on the poor for the quarter -	-	-	-	1,114	12	11 ¾
Amount of one year's expenditure under the averages -	9,988	–	–			
Amount of one year's expenditure, calculated on the quarter - - - - - - - - - - -	4,456	–	–			
Saving (55 per cent.) on the average expenditure - -	-	-	-	5,532	–	–
No. 17.—Petworth Union.						
Amount of expenditure on the poor for the quarter -	-	-	-	995	3	2
Amount of one year's expenditure under the averages -	12,226	–	–			
Amount of one year's expenditure, calculated on the quarter - - - - - - - - - - -	3,980	–	–			
Saving (65 per cent.) on the average expenditure - -	-	-	-	8,246	–	–
No. 18.—Westhampnett Union.						
Amount of expenditure on the poor for the quarter -	-	-	-	1,687	1	7 ¼
Amount of one year's expenditure under the averages -	16,454	–	–			
Amount of one year's expenditure, calculated on the quarter - - - - - - - - - - -	6,748	–	–			
Saving (55 per cent.) on the average expenditure - -	-	-	-	9,706	–	–

Appendix (B.)

No. 3.
Report of
W. H. T. Hawley, Esq.

ABSTRACT Statement of Expenditure in the Unions in the County of *Sussex*, for the Quarter ending 25th December 1835; showing the Decrease as compared with the Average Expenditure of the Three Years previous to the formation of the Unions.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	One Year's Expenditure under the Averages.	One Year's Expenditure calculated on the Quarter.	Saving.	Per Cent.
	£.	£.	£.	
Rye	11,588	5,508	6,080	52 ½
Ticehurst	10,915	5,428	5,487	42
Hastings	6,969	5,276	1,693	24
Battle	14,233	5,184	9,049	60 ¾
Uckfield	16,643	5,920	10,723	64
Eastbourne	11,961	5,641	6,320	53
Newhaven	3,371	1,971	1,400	41
West Firle	2,957	2,156	801	27
Lewes	5,770	3,651	2,119	36 ⅔
Cuckfield	17,136	8,545	8,591	50
Horsham	No return.			
Thakeham	9,799	5,252	4,547	46
Steyning	9,069	4,480	4,589	50 ½
Midhurst	17,543	5,913	11,630	66
Westbourne	8,095	7,012	1,083	13
Chailey	9,988	4,456	5,532	55
Petworth	12,226	3,980	8,246	67 ½
Westhampnett	16,454	6,748	9,706	59
£.	184,717	87,121	97,596	

Schedule (B.)—STATEMENT of Expenditure, including Establishment Charges for the Two Quarters ended respectively 25 December 1835, and 25 March 1836, in the several Unions in the County of *Sussex*; showing the Decrease and Increase on the December Quarter.

	NAME OF UNION.	Quarter ended 25 December 1835.	Quarter ended 25 March 1836.	Decrease.	Increase.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1	Rye	1,377 – –	2,711 16 2¾	– – –	1,334 16 2¾
2	Uckfield	1,479 19 6	1,880 15 3¼	– – –	410 15 9¼
3	Westbourne	1,753 18 5½	891 1 8	862 16 9½	
4	West Firle	539 8 3½	560 2 11	– – –	20 14 7½
5	Lewes	912 19 10	851 2 11	61 16 11	
6	Steyning	1,120 12 11½	1,543 14 9¾	– – –	423 1 10¼
7	Thakeham	1,313 2 6	1,182 – 2	131 2 4	
8	Eastbourne	1,410 7 10¼	1,683 5 1½	– – –	272 17 3¼
9	Chailey	1,114 12 11¾	1,840 2 9¼	– – –	725 9 9½
10	Cuckfield	2,136 5 2	2,459 16 4¼	– – –	323 11 2¼
11	Midhurst	1,478 8 4½	1,318 19 3½	159 9 1	
12	Petworth	995 3 2¾	1,262 9 4¾	– – –	267 6 2
13	Westhampnett	1,687 1 7¼	2,024 8 5	– – –	337 6 9¾
14	Newhaven	492 15 10	911 12 6½	– – –	418 16 8½
15	Horsham	583 11 11½	1,776 9 1		
16	Hastings	1,319 9 5½	1,192 10 7¾	126 18 9¾	
17	Ticehurst	1,569 – –	1,447 4 –½	121 15 11½	
18	Battle	2,322 11 –	1,413 9 8		
19	East Grinstead	– – –	3,162 10 –¾		

Appendix (B.)

No 3.
Report of
W. H. T. Hawley,
Esq.

Schedule (C.)—STATEMENT of Expenditure, exclusive of Establishment Charges for In-door Maintenance and Out-door Relief of the Poor, for the Two Quarters ended respectively 25 December 1835, and 25 March 1836, in the several Unions in the County of *Sussex*; showing the Decrease and Increase on the December Quarter.

	NAME OF UNION.	Quarter ended 25 December 1835.	Quarter ended 25 March 1835.	Decrease.	Increase.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1	Rye	- - -	1,504 14 6¾		
2	Uckfield	1,036 14 10½	1,265 13 10½	- - -	228 18 11¾
3	Westbourne	715 2 11¾	566 13 9½	148 9 2¼	
4	West Firle	500 11 2½	503 14 -½	- - -	3 2 10
5	Lewes	673 17 1	622 6 1	51 11 -	
6	Steyning	1,120 12 11½	881 12 7½	239 - 4	
7	Thakeham	1,313 2 6	771 6 4	541 16 2	
8	Eastbourne	1,156 - 1½	1,234 11 2¼	- - -	78 11 -¾
9	Chailey	965 5 8¾	1,071 1 10¾	- - -	105 16 1¼
10	Cuckfield	1,857 11 -	1,593 - 7¼	264 10 4¾	
11	Midhurst	1,137 2 6½	958 16 4	178 6 2½	
12	Petworth	825 14 5¼	1,059 17 9½	- - -	234 3 4¼
13	Westhampnett	1,282 11 3½	1,376 9 -½	- - -	93 17 9
14	Newhaven	436 12 2	350 1 8½	86 10 5½	
15	Horsham	- - -	1,776 9 1		
16	Hastings	1,017 14 6¾	815 - 10¾	202 13 8	
17	Ticehurst	1,186 - -	1,064 - -	122 - -	
18	Battle	- - -	983 10 6¾		
19	East Grinstead	- - -	1,325 1 2¼		

— No. 4. —

REPORT on *Essex*, *Cambridgeshire*, and part of *Herts*, by *Alfred Power*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

No. 4.
Report of
Alfred Power, Esq.

Gentlemen, Cambridge, 31 July 1836.

The following is a list of the 30 Unions of parishes formed under my superintendence, in Essex, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire, named in the order of their respective periods of formation:

Bishop Stortford.	Rochford.	Epping.
Dunmow.	Orsett.	Lexden and Winstree.
Saffron Walden.	Billericay.	Ely.
Ware.	Colchester.	Cambridge.
Hertford.	Halsted.	Chesterton.
Linton.	Tendring.	Ongar.
Caxton.	Maldon.	North Witchford.
Royston.	Witham.	Wisbeach.
Buntingford.	Braintree.	Romford.
Chelmsford.	Newmarket.	West Ham.

The first of these Unions was declared to take place from and after the 25th March 1835, and the last from and after the 31st May 1836.

The whole district comprises,

Parishes	627
Population	487,787
Average annual expenditure	£. 374,574

Activity and discretion of the Union boards.

Having found, by experience of the early Unions, that the self-acting powers of the new machinery were capable of realizing great advantages, with very little official assistance, I became desirous of devoting my exertions to extend the organization of boards of guardians over the whole surface of this pauperized district as rapidly as possible; and my time has consequently been more engaged in making the necessary arrangements to effect this object, than in personally superintending and assisting the proceedings of the guardians in the execution

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of your rules and regulations. With the exception of one or two attendances at the earliest meetings, and occasional visits in cases of pressing difficulty (which have very seldom occurred), together with such assistance as might be afforded through the medium of correspondence, the task of bringing the new law into operation has hitherto, in my district, been confided to the almost unassisted exertions and discretion of the Union boards. Although, by these means, so great a reduction of expenditure, and so close and uniform a system of practice may not have been yet introduced, as in the districts of some of my colleagues, still there is reason to think, from the results exhibited, that the progress of amendment has been sufficiently rapid, and that a wrong estimate has not been formed of the intrinsic vitality of the new system, and of the activity and discretion of the immediate administrators of relief.

Reduction of Expenditure.

From statistical information derived by the office regarding the early Unions in Essex, it would appear that the reduction effected upon the average annual expenditure, has been, taking one Union with another, about 44 per cent. Taking into consideration the period of comparison and the considerable outlay brought into the first quarterly accounts of some of the Unions, I feel no doubt that the actual result in saving, at the present time, exceeds the proportion above stated; and as the degree of pauperism existing, has been found to vary very little over the surface of the whole district (one or two very dark spots excepted), I entertain a confident expectation that within a very short period the saving may be stated at 50 per cent. over the entire district, as compared with the average annual expenditure for three years preceding the formation of each Union.

With a view to derive from the most authentic and best informed sources specific materials for framing this report, I recently addressed a circular letter, in the following form, to some one of the more active guardians in each of the earlier formed Unions, upon whom I could take the liberty of imposing a task of this description:

Circular letter.

"Dear Sir,

"May I request that you will take the trouble to forward me, within the next few days, a short account of the present situation and prospects of the Union with which you have been so actively connected since its formation.

"The points I should wish to see touched upon, are,

"1. The progress made in the reduction of able-bodied pauperism.

"2. The reduction of general expenditure.

"3. Any change of habits or behaviour which may have been observable in the labouring class.

"4. The medical arrangements at present existing in your Union, particularly as connected with the establishment of medical clubs.

"The above heads of observation are pointed out, not of course to the exclusion of others, which you may deem of sufficient public importance to introduce, but to confine in some degree the extent of the communication, as I am forwarding a letter of the same nature to each of the Unions within my district, and propose to embody as great a number of the answers as possible in my report to the Commissioners.

"I have, &c. *A. Power.*"

This request has been promptly complied with in almost every instance, and the answers form a series of communications more or less favourable, which I shall take the liberty of inserting in this report, without any reserve or alteration whatever. I prefix to each letter a brief statistical summary of the state of the Union to which it relates, at the point of time when I first made an investigation into its circumstances.

Series of Communications in answer to the above Circular.

Bishop Stortford Union.

Bishop Stortford Union.

Union declared, 25 March 1835.
Population in 1831,—17,912.
Average Annual Expenditure, £17,426.

Fred. Chaplin, Esq.

Able-bodied men receiving relief for lost time at the period of Inquiry, 279.

"Bishop Stortford, 13 July 1836.

* * * "First, as to able-bodied pauperism. The result of 15 months working the new system convinces me that there never was a greater delusion, than the notion of its being necessary to interfere between the labourer and the market for his labour, or to support the one when the other failed. In this Union it was a very common thing for parishes to have 30 and 40 men supported by the parish, merely because they were out of work; the average number in the 20 parishes, for some years, you may probably be able to ascertain from documents in your possession; I cannot do this, but I know the numbers I have mentioned were not unusual in this parish alone; for five or six years before the passing of the new law, we had on an average from 40 to 60 men in the gravel-pits the year round. The greatest number of able-bodied men we have employed or supported from the 20 parishes, at any one time since the Union was formed, is 52, and this only for two or three weeks in the winter. We have now none at all; the greatest number we have had from this parish at once, is, I think, three. They disappeared as if by magic, as soon as it was found they could have no out-door relief, and no one can tell what has become of them.

"I have not the means of giving you, in figures, any statement of the reduction of expenditure, because I cannot tell what the payments by the overseers have been, but the general result, at the end of the first year, was a reduction of about one-third. Of this, more or less

less falls to the share of any particular parish, as it has been more or less ill-conducted in former years. I could mention individuals who have found, and acknowledged, relief from the pressure of rates, to such an extent as very materially to improve their pecuniary condition; and I have reason to think that much more would be heard of such relief among farmers, if there was not an impression that the landlords are ready to take advantage of any improvement.

" An improvement in the behaviour of the labourers began to be noticed some months ago, and this I think very generally. I am told they are visibly more anxious to give satisfaction to their employers. The business of the beer-shops is undoubtedly diminished; a clear improvement, as you and I may think: but in agricultural districts this part of the change will not always be received with unmixed satisfaction.

" The medical arrangements in this Union have, I believe, given very general satisfaction; and I cannot but think that the excellent manner in which the poor have found themselves attended in sickness, has gone far to soften their feelings towards the new system. We have simply contracted with the medical men of the neighbourhood, at fixed sums, each taking certain parishes. We have established no medical clubs; and I believe it is generally thought by the guardians in this Union, that this is the last kind of parochial relief to be withdrawn, the least injurious in its tendency, and the least expensive in proportion to its benefits; and until it is withdrawn, I confess I cannot see what motive the poor will have to keep up the clubs. For it is already found that those who have refused to enter them are as well attended as the members of the club; their claim on the parish doctor remains as strong as ever. But, not to trouble you with my opinions, the fact is we have done nothing in this way at present.

" One thing worthy of remark is the great alteration in the feelings of the middle classes as to the new law. Many persons who were its bitter opponents, thinking it hard and cruel to the poor, are now convinced of its benefits, and begin to appreciate the correctness of its principles. It appears to me to be gradually working its way in public opinion, and I think too, it is becoming much less obnoxious to the poor themselves.

" We have just began a new workhouse, to hold 400 paupers; whether it will ever be filled is a question which I believe no one can answer. But it appears to me desirable, gradually to discontinue out-door relief to the widows and superannuated, not by removing the present race of pensioners to the workhouse, but by using great caution as to new ones; and by accustoming the people now in health and prosperity to consider that at no very distant time there will be no parish relief but in the workhouse.

" I am afraid you will think my information extremely scanty and meagre, but I really have not time to collect facts and figures. I cannot more fully express my own opinion and feeling on the matter than by saying that I am satisfied, and more than satisfied, yet I believe few were more sanguine.

" A. Power, esq. I remain, &c. *Fred. Chaplin.*"

Dunmow Union.

Dunmow Union.

Rev.
J. P. Chesshyre,
Chairman.

Union declared, 26 March.
Population in 1831,—19,193.
Average Annual Expenditure, £ 20,306.
Able-bodied men receiving relief for lost time at the period of Inquiry, 363.

" L. Easton Rectory, 9 July 1836.

" 1. The progress made in the reduction of able-bodied pauperism I think great, considering the low rate of wages in this neighbourhood. Able-bodied paupers, who are single, have almost entirely given up applying for relief at all. In the parish of Great Dunmore, during the last year, there has not been above one or two able-bodied paupers in the workhouse; a very few have sent their children there, though the wages are but 7*s.* per week. I have been requested to add, that though this is the average rate of wages per week, many employers let their work so that the labourer may earn much more. The well-disposed young men are most of them entering the Friendly Society, and many the medical clubs, so that the chance of being reduced to pauperism, by illness and casualty, is to such every day diminishing. In my own small parish, where every year there used from time to time to be able-bodied paupers receiving relief, some from want of employment, some from the largeness of their families, and some from sickness, I think in a few years pauperism will be well nigh annihilated.

" 2. The expenditure in the large parishes is certainly diminished; but in the small and less pauperised parishes the establishment-charges fall heavy, so that I do not think the expenditure has been less than it would have been under the old system. Compared with the average taken by the Commissioners, I think the expenditure this year may be said to be reduced about 40 per cent.; but it must be remembered, that under the old system the poor-rates had been gradually on the decrease for the last three or four years; and last year the decrease would have been still greater, from the low price of flour, and the unusual quantity of winter work afforded by the bulk of the harvest. From these causes I think the expenditure might have been lessened full 15 per cent., so that the real saving from the new system cannot be calculated at more than 25 per cent.

" 3. The farmers agree in stating, that the manners of the labourer towards his employer are considerably improved. He is now anxious to get work, and to keep it; he is anxious to get employment for his wife and children; he is cautious of leaving a good master, and therefore more desirous to please him. But while this is the case with these labourers who are usually at work, I lament to say there has been an increase of crime among the idle and those of bad character; they have become much more daring; instead of living partly on the

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parish, and partly on poaching and plunder, they live entirely upon depredation. Nothing, I fear, will check this evil but an improved system of rural police.

" 4. The medical clubs are succeeding pretty well in the Union where any respectable individual in a parish has exerted himself to promote them. We were particularly unfortunate in this neighbourhood, from a medical man, of great popularity among the lower classes, refusing to take any parish on the terms proposed; he was the only one out of 12 medical men in the Union who did not agree.

" Although you have not asked a question relative to the Bastardy Law, I cannot conclude without remarking, that no part of the Poor Law Amendment Act has, in my opinion, been more successful in its effects; the cases of bastardy and of pauper marriages have certainly decreased in number very surprisingly.

" There have not been above one or two instances in the Union where the parish officers have called on the mother to affiliate her illegitimate child; and the process was found so difficult and expensive, I think it will not be had recourse to again.

" I remain, &c. *John P. Chesshyre.*"

Saffron Walden Union.

Saffron Walden Union.
Board of Guardians.

Union declared, 25 March 1836.
Population in 1831,—17,977.
Average Annual Expenditure, £16,373.
Able-bodied paupers, 395.

Answers to the Questions contained in a Letter addressed by Mr. *Power* to Lord *Braybrooke*, dated 1st July 1836.

" 1st Question. As to the reduction of able-bodied pauperism:—There is not at this time, nor has there been for some weeks past, a single able-bodied pauper in the Union receiving relief. At the commencement of the hay season, the number of able-bodied paupers in the Union workhouse was eight, and they were discharged by order of the Board, it being considered that by exertion they might obtain employment, which they unquestionably did, as they have not since required assistance.

" 2d. As to the reduction of the expenditure:—A statement of the expenses, during the year ending 24th June 1836, is sent herewith, by which it appears that a reduction of 5,951 *l.* 3 *s.* 1 *d.* has been effected, in addition to 450 *l.*, the value of the stock in hand.

" 3d. As to the change of habits and behaviour in the labouring class:—The habits of the poor are decidedly improved, and their manners become more respectful; they have also been rendered generally more industrious since they have been thrown upon their own resources, which fact is admitted throughout the Union; and in many instances labourers have gladly accepted work which they had refused, so long as they found they could obtain parochial relief without due exertions.

" 4th. As to the medical arrangements now existing:—The 24 parishes in this Union are under the superintendence of 10 medical gentlemen, at salaries amounting altogether to 311 *l.* 5 *s.* per annum. There has been of late rather an unusual degree of illness; but the medical attendance is quite satisfactory, no serious complaint having ever been sustained before the board. There has been no medical club established in this Union, nor do the board think it desirable at present.

" On the whole, it may be said that the new poor law system continues to work exceedingly well, and has produced results which the most sanguine advocate of the new system could not have anticipated.

" Signed by order of the board of guardians, at their meeting, held 29th July 1836.

" *R. D. Thurgood*, Clerk."

Ware Union.

Ware Union.
C. E. Dampier, Esq. Clerk to Guardians.

Union declared, 25 March 1835.
Population in 1831,—14,654.
Average Annual Expenditure, £12,131.
Able-bodied men receiving relief for lost time at the period of Inquiry, 129.

" Dear Sir, Ware, 22 July 1836.

" Although this Union was formed in April 1835, the Commissioners' system of forms did not, as you are aware, come into use until the Michaelmas quarter following, consequently the returns I have will not enable me to reduce to figures, either the actual expenditure in relief of each parish, for the year ending Midsummer, nor the actual number of able-bodied relieved during that time, as compared with the previous years. I am therefore obliged to reply to your letter in much more general terms than I could have wished; but from the accounts I should say, that the expenditure during the first complete year ending Midsummer, as compared with the average of the preceding years, is not so much by one-third of the gross annual amount; indeed, I believe the reduction is somewhat greater, taking the establishment and other extra expenditure into account.

" In regard to able-bodied pauperism, I am strongly inclined to believe that it will soon be but a 'name.' The board now very rarely give out-relief to this class of paupers; and the number relieved in the workhouse has gradually decreased, and has now become very small indeed. At the present time there are but 9 or 10 able-bodied male paupers in the Union, of whom about 7 are lads under 18 years of age. The cost of the parish of Ware alone, in employing able-bodied paupers under the old system, was upwards of 500 *l.* for the year ending

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ending Lady-day 1835; and even that sum was much less than was expended in the previous years; this year, I should say, the amount is not one-fifth part of such sum. I may therefore safely say, there is an incredible reduction in the amount of relief distributed to the able-bodied class of this Union since the formation of it.

"Much change has undoubtedly taken place in the habits and manners of the poor, and they are no doubt improving. I am informed they are much more strenuous in their endeavours to procure work than they were under the old system, and that, when found, they feel the policy of conducting themselves in such a manner as to ensure their keeping it; and they rarely now, I understand, apply to the relieving officer, unless their cases will bear strict investigation.

"The medical arrangements have given the board much difficulty, and are now but in a temporary state; the Commissioners not being satisfied with the arrangements made by the board, they have not sanctioned them for continuance. The present arrangements are but a continuation of the old system, that of providing medical relief to the poor of each parish by salary, but embracing all cases, casual or otherwise, occurring within the Union. The engagements entered into are made for a year from Lady-day last.

"I am, &c. *Christopher Edw. Dampier.*"

Linton Union.

Linton Union.

J. Buller, Esq.

Union declared, 18 June 1835.
Population in 1831,—11,597.
Average Annual Expenditure, £. 10,546.
Able-bodied men receiving relief for lost time at the period of Inquiry, 287.

"Bartlow, 13 July 1836.

"1. Our progress upon the whole, as to the reduction of able-bodied pauperism, is most satisfactory. The new law did not come into full operation with us till 29th August last, and we have now scarcely a single application from persons of that description. We have indeed reduced them for some time past to a sort of *caput mortuum*. The same idle and disreputable characters, the refuse of their respective parishes, make their occasional appearance at the board; but they meet with constant discouragement, and the workhouse is never accepted by them but as the very last resource.

"There has been one circumstance greatly in favour of this Union during the past winter, and which ought to be mentioned; it is this: the guardians had purchased a field last autumn, in which to erect the workhouse for 200 inmates, as ordered by the Commissioners. This was found to abound in stones, sand and materials applicable to the purposes of the intended building, in a degree beyond all expectation. Our actual means for the reception of paupers in the old Linton workhouse, and another house which we had hired, could not accommodate more than 110 (58 males, 52 females), and as we were desirous of being ready at any time to take in such cases as particular circumstances might render necessary or advisable, we always kept some places in reserve to act *in terrorem*. Some, therefore, who in ordinary circumstances would at once have been sent to the workhouse, were employed in this field to dig materials, and received half their pay in kind; and none were so employed whose families consisted of less than three children, and in most instances of a much greater number.

"There were at a maximum about 30 of these men; and, with few exceptions, it may be said, that there was hardly an individual amongst them against whom there was not some sound and fair objection as a regular labourer in a farmer's service; they were altogether a very bad set, and gave the board no small trouble; but still this source of employment was a very important assistance at that period, and by no means without its effect in making the general expenses of the system less to the rate-payers, and so far more palatable, and the labour little less objectionable to the paupers, than the workhouse itself.

"I annex a statement of unemployed paupers for four weeks at Christmas, and in June, in the Linton district only; but as two of the parishes in this district (Castle Camps and Shudy Camps) are amongst the most burdened in the Union, it may be taken as a fair specimen of the average state of things on this head; and I can answer that it would be fully supported by a similar return from the other two districts.

"Comparative Statement of Able-bodied Persons out of Employment for Four Weeks, commencing from 27 December 1835, with Four Weeks, commencing from 12 June 1836.

	27 Dec.	3 Jan.	10 Jan.	17 Jan.	12 June.	29 June.	26 June.	3 July.
Great Abington								
L. Abington	–	–	–	–	1			
Bartlow	2	–	1	1				
Bartlow Hamlet	–	–	–	2				
Castle Camps	5	–	3	6	1	1		
Hadstock	4	–	2	2				
Hildersham								
Linton	–	1	3	1	–	2		
Shudy Camps	2	1	8	14	1			

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" With regard to migration to the north, as another means of reducing the number of able-bodied paupers, several families have been sent by the board, and some single men had money advanced to them to bear their expenses on the road. Two men from Castle Camps, who went down at their own expense, but whose families were sent after them at that of the parish, have returned, for no reason that I can learn, but a dislike to work; they had found employment, and at good wages. One man and his wife, with seven children, from Bartlow Hamlet, is in the weekly receipt of a guinea; his own earnings and those of his family here did not exceed 8*s.* or 9*s.* Another man, with eight children, who resided in the hamlet (but who belonged to the Walden Union), also went to the same place; he now is getting 25*s.* per week. Both have written word to their friends of their great improvement in comfort in all respects, and particularly desired that I should be informed of it, as I had been very earnest in recommending them to go.

" Some men have gone to the rail-roads; but few, I believe, have continued permanently at work in that way; the labour is too severe for many individuals brought up wholly in light-land districts; and it should be remarked, that many who went, or pretended to go, with the view of seeking employment, were characters from whom regular industry could not be expected in any department of labour whatever.

" 2. I come now to the article of expenditure; and the annexed statement received from our clerk, for every quarter since the establishment of the Union, will be the best and most satisfactory answer that can be given.

Expense of Quarter, ending 29 September 1835.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Out-relief	495	19	10½
Establishment charges	203	13	8
Maintenance	8	9	–
£.	708	2	6½

Quarter ending 25 December 1835.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Out-relief (number of out-poor 877)	1,337	5	9
Establishment charges	373	1	4
Maintenance	97	17	11¾
£.	1,808	5	–¾

Quarter ending 25 March 1836.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Out-relief (number of out-poor 939)	1,418	17	2
Establishment charges	230	10	9½
Maintenance	185	7	11½
£	1,834	15	11

Quarter ending 24 June 1836.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Out-relief (number of out-poor 873)	1,314	3	4
Establishment charges	208	5	10
Maintenance	107	–	9¾
£.	1,629	9	11¾

" The average expenditure of the Union having been set by the Commissioners at 10,547 *l.*, our reduction, according to the quarter ending 25th December, was 3,300 *l.*; but according to the last quarter, it is at the rate of 4,500 *l.* a quarter. The greater quantity of labour in the present quarter, from harvest and other causes, will probably reduce the expenditure yet lower; but perhaps it will be fair to fix the general average reduction at the actual rate, and the expenses of the new workhouse must not be overlooked in any estimate formed for the future.

" 3. With respect to the behaviour of the poor, the farmers in general bear testimony to their improvement in civility to their employers, their greater care to keep their places, and their endeavours to get their children into service. Necessity has forced this upon them, but I trust that such conduct will in time become habitual from those better motives which the present system is especially calculated to encourage. There are still some who will try their old tricks and frauds to impose upon the guardians, but they rarely succeed, and never for any long continuance. There are some whose confirmed drunken and bad habits will frustrate every intention or ordinance of the law to make them better or more comfortable, but these are not very numerous, and it is reasonably to be expected that such examples of demoralization will cease entirely, or if they do occur in the next generation, that they will bear an infinitely less proportion to the whole.

" 4. Our poor are at present attended by the medical men under contracts with the board of guardians, which expire on 31st August. No final arrangement has as yet been made about

about the medical clubs, owing to the professional gentlemen not agreeing amongst themselves upon the terms to be asked. The question will be decided at the meeting on the 21st instant. There seems however to be no disinclination on the part of the poor to enter into associations of the kind; but allowance must be made for the very low rate of wages prevalent in this country; and as it is desirable to have more than one medical man to a club, it will be for the benefit of all parties that their interests should be reconciled if possible. If I may venture to express an opinion, as far as my own observation goes, the medical clubs must be left to work their own way.

"I cannot conclude without mentioning what I think will give yourself and the Commissioners pleasure, that the board of guardians have reason to be satisfied with the manner in which the officers of the Union have hitherto discharged their duty, whether to the board or to the poor. In the course of the past year only one complaint has been made with respect to the flour or bread, and a resolution has been passed, that no tender shall in future be received from any contractor who does not strictly fulfil his contract.

"I hope I may be allowed to add, that the attendance of the guardians has always been regular and punctual, though many reside at a considerable distance from Linton; and this applies as well to those elected in March last, as to the members of the first board; and all the proceedings have been carried on in the best spirit of harmony amongst themselves, and of firmness and impartiality as to the objects of the Union.

"I am, &c. *J. Buller.*"

Caxton and Arrington Union.

Caxton and Arrington Union.

Union declared, 18 June 1835.
Population in 1831,—8,993.
Average Annual Expenditure, £6,027.
Able-bodied men receiving relief for lost time at the period of Inquiry, 100.

Earl of Hardwicke, Chairman.

"Wimpole, July 29, 1836.

"I HAVE looked at our expenditure, and have taken two periods for comparison, viz., from the 2d of September 1835 (the day the guardians first met) to Christmas of the same year. This period compared with the same of the previous year, gives a reduction of expenditure of 628 *l.* 8 *s.* 6 *d.*

"The second period I have taken is three months ending at Lady-day 1836. This, compared with the like period in 1835, gives a reduction of expenditure in the Union of 751 *l.* 10 *s.* 8 *d.* This will give a reduction in the first year of about 2,600 *l.*

"Now it is to be remembered that this reduction has taken place without the aid of a workhouse. We put up a hand corn-mill during the last winter, which employed 17 or 18 able-bodied men for a short time, but it was difficult to find hands to keep it at work.

"With regard to the condition of the labouring classes, I should say that a visible alteration has taken place in their manners; all farmers that I have conversed with, say that they are more respectful and civil in their behaviour, and more regular to their time of work. The parishes in the Union have never been so free from crime. The cases brought before the magistrates at the petty sessions are much reduced.

"In the parish of Gamlingay the saving has been enormous, and the able-bodied were during the winter employed generally, never having above from 17 to 20 out of work at any time; whereas the previous winters, for years past, have seen 100 men, on an average, receiving parochial relief.

"Such is a very short statement of the condition and effect of the union of 26 parishes in this part of Cambridgeshire, and I have no doubt that by a steady and just administration of the law, taking each case on its own merits, we shall next year be able to give you a report that will show a greater saving, together with a large improvement in the moral state of the community. I have, &c.

"A. Power, esq., Poor Law Office. *Hardwicke.*"

Buntingford Union.

Buntingford Union.

Union declared, 29 June 1835.
Population in 1831,—6,327.
Average Annual Expenditure, £4,625.
Able-bodied men receiving relief for lost time at the period of Inquiry, 61.

W. Butt, Esq.

"Dear Sir, Buntingford, 8 July 1836.

"IN compliance with your request to be informed of the present situation and prospects of this Union, I have much pleasure in assuring you that we continue to go on prosperously, and that for the future I can see nothing which should prevent the almost entire extinction of pauperism in this district.

"With regard to the able-bodied paupers, I may fairly say we have none. Two or three idle fellows apply at intervals, and are either employed immediately or receive an order for the workhouse, to which they never go. The hand-mill, which was placed in the workhouse last autumn, has never been used, for we have never had men enough to turn it; although in the preceding winter one parish alone had as many men upon the rates as would have supplied two sets of hands for the mill.

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"The reduction in our expenditure will appear from the following comparison of charges under the old and the new law:

	£.	s.	d.
Disbursements for half a year under the old system - - -	2,307	10	–
Disbursements for half a year, ending Lady-day 1836 - -	1,590	2	11¾
Saving under the new law - - - £.	717	7	–¼

"The exact expenditure of the quarter ending at Midsummer I have not been able to obtain, but there can be no doubt that the closing of the year's account will show a saving of more than one-third; and this is in a small Union, where the machinery, if I may so call it, is a heavy proportion of the whole expense.

"The behaviour of the labouring class is universally admitted to be much improved. In illustration of this I beg to mention an observation made at our board a short time since: 'The men are so altered that I shall hoe my beans three times this year, whereas last year I dared not hoe them more than once; they trod down as many beans as they hoed weeds.' I cannot say that there has been any great diminution of crime, nor is it to be expected that there should be in so short a period. The bad are not to be reclaimed in a few months; but we have adopted a regulation at our board which will make a man think twice before he goes out to thieve: it is to give no allowance whatever, except in the workhouse, to the families of men in prison or under sentence of transportation. To give a detailed account of the altered conduct of individuals, though I might easily do it, would be to write a volume. They are very much improved. The bastardy cases and the improvident marriages are fewer.

"We were not altogether exempt from the difficulties which met almost every Union in providing medical relief, but I confidently hope that, by not attempting too much, we shall succeed. One gentleman has undertaken the charge of all who become dependent upon us for support, on the terms recommended by the Commissioners, and each of the three gentlemen practising in Buntingford has his separate medical club. Our plan is this: every person receiving relief from the Union on the 25th of March was made a member of the club for the year; and every person, whether sick or sound, becoming chargeable to us, not being a member of any club, is at once added to the list. Some applications have been made to the board for medical relief where no other relief was wanted. In one instance we found that the applicant was capable of becoming a member of a club without assistance; the relief was refused, and the family joined a club the same afternoon. One woman applied for medical relief for her daughter, the husband and some of the children being in employment; as the family was very large the board advanced the money necessary to make them members of the club, and the loan is being repaid at the rate of 6*d.* a week. We have had one case of difficult labour, where the woman had provided no surgical attendance; the application to the relieving officer was made in the night, who directed the parties to the gentleman who has taken our contract, and the woman was safely delivered, and did well. The terms on which such cases should be attended was arranged at the time of making the contract. I fear I have not been able to compress this statement as closely as you would wish, and will, therefore, only add, that I think the Union has derived considerable advantage from having for its relieving officer a gentleman of education, who is an exceedingly good accountant.

"I remain, &c. *W. Butt.*"

Royston Union.

Royston Union.
H. Thurnall, Esq., Clerk to Guardians.

Union declared, 29 June 1835.
Population in 1831,—15,671.
Average Annual Expenditure, £ 10,232.
Able-bodied men receiving relief for lost time at the period of Inquiry, 230.

"Royston, 13 July 1836.

"1. The progress made in the reduction of able-bodied pauperism has been considerable, although not nearly so extensive as it might have been if we had possessed a workhouse of larger dimensions, as is clearly demonstrated by the fact that with our little old house, which could only accommodate 20 single men, we have completely held in check the unmarried men of the Union, and have not employed one, or had one in the house for more than 24 hours. You have returns in your possession which will show the number of able-bodied out of employment during former seasons, and the inclosed table will show you the number of men who have been employed by the Union at the hill or in other ways since its formation; you will perceive that only 18 parishes out of the 29 have sent any, and the table will show, in the first column, the number of men employed in each week, and the second column the number of days work done by the same men, by which it will appear that the total number of days is 6,899, which, divided by six, will give 1,149 weeks, and this for a period of 38 weeks, will give an average of 30 men per week for the whole Union from Michaelmas to Midsummer.

"2. The reduction in the expenditure during the 46 weeks in which the new system has been at work, as placed in juxta-position with a like period of the average of the last three years, will be 2,633*l.* 3*s.* 2½*d.*, as shown by the inclosed statement; and I should say that between 300*l.* and 400*l.* of the establishment charges have been incurred in the purchase of furniture, tools, &c., which we have by us, and other expenses which will not again occur.

"3. Until

"3. Until the feelings of the poor were excited by the harangues and misrepresentations of Messrs. Clack and Maberley, (the particulars of whose proceedings you have heard), there was a very marked improvement in the habits and conduct of the labourers, both as regards industry and civility and quietness of demeanor; but I am sorry to say that an evil spirit has been raised by these gentlemen in many parishes which it will take much pains and trouble to lay, and I hear they are still persisting in their course in other Unions. There, however, they must confine themselves to public lectures, which I do not fear; it is their domestic evening meetings that do the mischief.

"4. The medical relief of all the permanent paupers is contracted for by five medical men resident in the Union, at the prices following, viz. man and wife 4*s.* 6*d.*, one individual 3*s.*, children under sixteen 1*s.*, with such provisions, as to admission of sick paupers, &c., as are laid down by your printed rules. Great exertions have been made to form independent medical clubs, which I at first hoped were going on very well; but, owing in a great measure, I fear, to the conduct of the reverend gentlemen above alluded to, they have not made such progress as I could wish. We have at present had very little sickness, so that we can scarcely tell how they will be found to act, and I hope we shall contrive to make them more popular before the winter arrives.

"There is no other point upon which at present I think I need trouble you, unless it be to mention that we have in all cases received the greatest attention from the magistracy of the district, several of whom are amongst the most zealous and efficient members of our board.

"I am, &c. *Henry Thurnall.*"

	Maintenance of Paupers.			Establishment Charges.			TOTAL.		
	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
First quarter, from 7 Aug. to 11 Oct., being nine weeks.	984	19	8¾	92	10	7	1,077	10	3¾
Second quarter, from 11 Oct. to 25 Dec., being 11 weeks.	1,327	14	2½	183	17	5	1,511	11	7½
Third quarter, from 25 Dec. to 25 March, being 13 weeks.	1,627	17	–½	332	3	6	1,960	–	6½
Fourth quarter, from 25 March to 24 June, being 13 weeks.	1,395	15	5¾	472	1	1	1,867	16	6¾
Total, being 46 weeks - - £.	5,336	6	5½	1,080	12	7	6,416	19	–½
The average for the last five years was 10,231, which for 46 weeks							9,050	2	3
Present Total for 46 weeks							6,416	19	–½
Total Saving - - £.							2,633	3	2½

Chelmsford Union.

Chelmsford Union.

Rev. C. A. St. John Mildmay.

In this Union, and in the other Unions formed at this time of the year, the extent of able-bodied pauperism is by no means properly indicated by the returns.

Union declared, 10 August 1835.
Population in 1831,—26,455.
Average Annual Expenditure, £ 19,286.
Able-bodied men receiving relief for lost time at the period of Inquiry, 155.

"Dear Sir, Rectory, Chelmsford, 9 July 1836.

"I have much pleasure in complying with your request, the more because I think, on the whole, notwithstanding some untoward circumstances, the prospects of our Union are encouraging.

"1. There is a decided reduction in the amount of able-bodied pauperism, even in Writtle; indeed it has been almost a general principle of the board to give no relief to an able-bodied male pauper in work. I hear that in Little Waltham, where they used to have 10 or 12 men out of employment at a time, they have now but seldom one, and he gets employment generally in a day or two. In one or two cases, where we offered the house to an able-bodied labourer who could not get employment, work was found for him directly.

"2. As to the general expenditure, the following statement will, I think, suffice.

Union expenditure, half year, to 30 June 1835 - - -	9,624
Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - 1836 - - -	6,090
	3,534

"Even in Chelmsford, where there was less room for improvement, the operation of the new system is evident.

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No. 4.
Report of
Alfred Power, Esq.

Chelmsford Parish Gross Expenses.

	1835.			1836.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Quarter of a year to Lady-day -	733	4	3½	511	8	5
Ditto - - - - to Midsummer -	565	3	8½	435	7	5¾
£.	1,298	8	–	946	15	10¾
Deduct - -	946	15	10¾			
Saving in half year - - - £.	351	12	1¼			

" We have thoroughly investigated all cases of bastards, orphans and deserted children, and shall shortly go through the widows with children, when some further reduction may be made.

" 3. I am glad to find that a change of habits and behaviour is decidedly manifest; less time and money is spent in dissipation, and there is more anxiety to get and to retain employment.

" 4. Our medical arrangements still continue upon the old plan of paying in the gross for attendance on the sick in each district; the contracts, however, expire at Michaelmas, and then I hope the medical men will be less disinclined to the adoption of the new system.

" Having gone through the heads mentioned by you, I will now trouble you with a few observations.

" In the first place, we should be very much the better for the occasional presence of a Commissioner at the board, both to fix in the minds of the yeomen some of the great principles on which they should act, and at times to let them understand the determination of the Board of Commissioners.

" We find much inconvenience from the dispersion of our workhouses; money has been thrown away upon them in a hurry at the beginning, and we now find that these houses are too numerous, that they are too widely scattered, at an inconvenient distance from the board, and from each other, from the tradesmen and from the poor, and that the organization is less complete, the supervision of the board less active, and the establishment expenses greater than would be the case in an Union-house.

" The relieving officers are but little informed about the poor who are receiving relief, and from their mode of relieving (at a fixed place in each parish), it is not in their power to visit the sick.

" We give clothing to many applicants, a mode of relief which appears to me to be liable to much abuse; application for clothing seems often to be made as a cloak for a general application, and indeed is often so treated.

" Our board is not quite so steady as it should be in the principles on which it administers relief; after having gone on the principle of refusing relief to applicants in work and in health, at the last board-day, on a division, relief was voted in such a case. Indeed our board is so constituted, that almost every day's proceedings depend for their principle on the individuals present, the majorities on divisions being often very small. Nevertheless, on the whole, I think we may congratulate ourselves and the country on the great success of this experiment. I am not a sanguine man, but I believe I see in the distant future the restitution of the poor to those rights and good principles from which their betters have driven them; at least I see the restoration of sound rules of moral government of the poor; and this done, we must leave the rest to Him who ruleth all.

" Believe me, &c. *C. A. St. John Mildmay.*"

Rochford Union.

Rochford Union.

G. Wood, Esq.

Union declared, 10 October 1835.
Population in 1831,—12,953.
Average Annual Expenditure, £ 9,485.
Able-bodied men receiving relief for lost time at the period of Inquiry, 149.

" Rochford, 14 July 1836.

" 1. The reduction in able-bodied pauperism is, I may say, complete. There are a few solitary instances of relief afforded to paupers with large families, from eight and upwards, where the family is very young; this relief is given by taking part of the family into the house, but in no case either in money or goods.

" 2. The reduction of general expenditure: this I take to be about one-third of the former expenditure. I mean with regard to relief out of the house; but in many parishes it far exceeds half, and even more than that.

" The maintenance and clothing and workhouse establishment are still heavy charges on the Union, but will not remain permanent. It is rather the costs of the first outlay now felt, and seriously so by small parishes, and but trifling to large ones.

" 3. I conceive that a striking change is observable; the poor are more assiduous, more tenacious of employment, and many who were hitherto a very heavy charge on parishes under

under the old system, are now no longer so. In one instance one pauper, an old man, has received upwards of 1,200 *l.* in relief, and now, under the same circumstances, can maintain himself. It must be admitted that we are not over-done with population, and that there are still some who are reckless of every thing; these are generally young men, without incumbrance.

" 4. The medical arrangement is at present by a salary of 70 *l.* to four gentlemen, who give general satisfaction, and we have had but one cause to complain of one of them, and this being under investigation, I forbear to say more. The sum paid is about 25 per cent. less than before; my own view is that we do not adequately remunerate them. Medical clubs are established independent of the Union, and with very beneficial and satisfactory results; the poor seem desirous of availing themselves of them, and are more desirous of entering into benefit clubs than heretofore. Your scheme for a medical club came too late to be properly considered when we engaged for the present year; no doubt the matter will be considered before our next appointment.

" I think I have now answered your inquiries, and I have now to remark that the business of the Union is conducted with the utmost harmony, and the business of late, owing to the season I presume, has so fallen off, that we have occasion to meet once a fortnight only for the dispatch of business.

" I observe in the progress of the new operations what I consider a desideratum. We appear to want some visible body who are bound to carry our orders into effect, and responsible to us; for instance, a sum lent by way of loan is entered upon the books, and almost sure to be afterwards overlooked. A party is ordered to contribute to his father or mother, the order is made on the overseer, but the guardians know nothing of the matter afterwards, and usually the relief is continued under the impression that the money is to be received back, and that the overseer had done the utmost to carry it into effect. You are aware we cannot, and have not the power to call the overseer before us, or inquire of him what has been done. I could mention several other things of a similar kind. The overseers having less to do than formerly, appear to do with reluctance what is allotted to them.

" I would mention the present bastardy system: as the law now stands it is idle to attempt to interfere to obtain an order of bastardy; an expense of 12 *l.* or 14 *l.* must be incurred, and for seven years only, at 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a week, seldom more; parishes therefore let the matter pass as the more economical plan; and the apparent reduction of bastardy cases, speaking of our neighbourhood, is reduced solely from this cause, and paupers finding the evasion easy, are beginning to practise with impunity.

" I must strongly recommend and applaud the workhouse system; it has convinced me, which before I doubted, that it is a sure test of imposition; the feeling paupers formerly had, is beginning to revive, namely, an independence above submitting to coercive maintenance; this feeling induces an energy to keep out of the house altogether. Our present plan for aged poor is to put them in one house, and allow them their liberty; they seem grateful, but this liberty is not general; those who are not considered objects are kept at other places. We have a great number of small children in the house, but not one able-bodied pauper, except females, and of these a few, who are there pregnant, and from disorderly behaviour and street walking. Employment and discipline have reformed many, and but few return who once have left.

" We are at present without a building capacious enough to hold all we have, owing to the difficulty of conveying the land we have purchased, (it being copyhold) and a desire to learn from others what we really may require. I am, &c. *G. Wood.*"

Orsett Union.

Orsett Union.
N. Hand, Esq.

Union declared, 10 October 1835.
Population in 1831,—8,609.
Average Annual Expenditure, £ 5,897.
Able-bodied men receiving relief for last time at the period of Inquiry, 40.

" Balphan, 13th July.

" The results of our labours have been on the whole very satisfactory, and although I cannot boast of so great a reduction in the expenditure as some other districts, still I am inclined to think that our success has not been the less decided. It has been the wish of myself, and I may add of each of the boards with which I have been connected, not to make the question (as perhaps you will allow me to say I think is too much the case in some places,) merely one of pounds, shillings and pence, in order to exhibit a favourable balance sheet in comparison with any former period, but to look upon it as a great national measure which requires to be conducted with great caution and temperance in order to ensure its ultimate and complete success. While therefore we have not forgotten to lay the foundation for a strict and searching economy, we have been very materially guided by the wish of making the change as gradual and palatable as possible. In this I trust we have not failed, since, with the exception of one or two instances, and these not flagrant ones, from parishes where everything was done to set the poor in the outset against the measure, I have never received an uncivil, or anything approaching to a threatening answer, when making known the decision of the board.

" I should not conceal from you that we have invariably permitted aged pensioners (except where, after a careful examination of their wants and circumstances, it appeared there was room for alteration,) to remain as we found them on the out-relief list, giving them a portion of their allowance in bread, and this will account in a great measure for the very large amount of our out-door relief, as compared with the charge for in-maintenance, the former being,

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Alfred Power, Esq.

from Christmas to Midsummer, 934*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*, the latter 330*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* for the same period. The total expenditure of the Union for the two quarters just mentioned, the sum of 534*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* for establishment charges being added, is 1,799*l.* 19*s.* 2*d*, which, by referring to the authorized averages, you will find to be a saving of something more than 1,000*l.* in the half year, which, considering the heavy charges for workhouse furniture, and considering also the little room there was for reduction in some of the smaller parishes of our Union, in comparison with others, where the population is greater, and the expenditure much more lavish, we cannot but look upon as satisfactory. This would be clearly demonstrated were I to go into detail, and analyse the expenditure of each parish separately, but, as I stated in the outset, I have not time to enter into minute points, I trust however that what I have said above will answer your financial purposes.

" As to the reduction of able-bodied pauperism I am not able to give you a statistical account of the relative numbers under the old and new system, not having had my attention turned much toward the subject until the last year; but in my own parish, and as far as my observation goes in others, this much I can say, that it has greatly diminished, nay well nigh disappeared, at least under its worst features. The only cases in which an able-bodied pauper is relieved are these, in cases of protracted and expensive sickness, or for having a large and young family, which we are well satisfied he cannot at all times maintain entirely without assistance. In this latter case we are accustomed to order relief (generally all in kind) for a certain period, which we consider better than giving him, as I think is done in the Uckfield Union, a fixed allowance of flour and bread, for every child above four of stated ages; and for this simple reason, that there are times when he can maintain his family, and others again when he cannot, and thus his case becomes continually watched and revised, as circumstances alter.

" I should say, before I quit this subject, that we have a few able-bodied widows with families on the out-relief list, but great care is taken to inquire into their situations before any such claim is allowed.

" I come now to that part of your inquiry which relates to the change of habits and behaviour of the labouring classes within our district, and it gives me great pleasure in being able to say that there is a very decided change for the better in their behaviour, which augurs well for a similar change in their habits. There demeanor in soliciting for relief now, as compared with their former obtrusive manner, is particularly remarkable; and I could mention many instances of persons, who were constantly noisy and dissatisfied applicants at the vestry table, who now appear seldom, but show every disposition to use their own exertions, and receive any assistance the board may think proper to grant with thankfulness. The great drawback to moral improvement (and, I think, it cannot be too often or too publicly stated) is the beer-shop, and until that increased and increasing temptation to vice and improvidence be rendered less accessible, all endeavours to ameliorate the moral condition of the poor will be unavailable, to any great extent.

" With respect to our medical arrangements, you are aware that we succeeded in adopting in part at least your suggestions respecting a medical assurance club, and from past experience, (although of no long standing), and the opinion of those more immediately connected with its provisions, I feel convinced that it is a plan which, if taken up in earnest, will ultimately succeed, although I must not conceal from you, that if it is to be continued in a district so thinly populated, without extraneous assistance, the rate of assurance must be materially raised. As it is, however, I am informed, indeed I may say from my own knowledge, that with a very reduced salary to cover any orders for medical assistance which emanate from the board and parochial authorities, (the plan adopted in lieu of the guardians' list), it has, upon the whole, remunerated the medical officer fully as well as heretofore. I must here add, in justice to the medical officers, that every attention has been paid to the poor, and that I indulge the hope, that after the present trial they will be able to come forward and co-operate with us in rendering the medical arrangements as perfect as possible.

" In conclusion I have only to add, that our weekly applications for relief are very few, and these principally cases of sickness or accident, and that there appears an increasing dislike to make any application where there is no real necessity, and where the case will not bear close examination. I am, &c. *N. Hand.*"

Billericay Union.

Billericay Union.

J. O. Penfold, Esq.,
Clerk to Guardians.

Union declared, 10 October 1835.
Population in 1831,—12,429.
Average Annual Expenditure, £ 8,559.
Able-bodied relieved for lost time in the course of one year, 206.

" Billericay, 13 July 1836.

" This Union consists of 26 parishes, with a population of 12,429, and previous to its formation the average annual expenditure on account of the poor was 8,559 *l.*, a considerable part of which was given to the able-bodied paupers, in consequence of their being unemployed, or having large families.

" Mr. Skipper is very happy in being able to state his conviction, which is strengthened by the testimony of all the guardians, that since the formation of the Union able-bodied pauperism has been very much reduced. In the month of December last 36 individuals who may be termed able-bodied paupers, presented themselves before the board for relief. In the month of January only 13 presented themselves; in February, 20; in March, 16; the smallest number ever known to require relief during those months. In many of these cases

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an order of admission to the workhouse was given, or offered, this was either refused by the applicants, or if taken, never presented at the house. About six able-bodied paupers entered the workhouse for a very short period only; at the present time there is only one in the house, and this man is very anxious to leave, but refuses to take his wife and children with him.

"The expenditure of the Union, as compared with the same period of former years, has been very much lessened. The expenditure of the quarter ending 25th March, being 1,098 *l.* 15 *s.* 8 *d.* for the whole Union, exclusive of medical relief, and relief under contracts made by the parishes, while the expenditure of the quarter ending 24th June ultimo, including those charges, and nearly 600 *l.* expended in fitting up, and furnishing the Union houses, and in clothing for the poor, is only 1,631 *l.* 0 *s.* 2 *d.*

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Maintenance	226	1	4
Out-relief	659	–	7 ½
Establishment	745	18	2 ½
£.	1,631	–	2

"The estimate for the present quarter was only 1,100 *l.*

"The guardians are generally of opinion, that the formation of the Union has been the means, if not of quite suppressing, at all events, of materially altering for the better a body of men who were united in almost every parish, and known as the insolent, the disorderly, the idle and profligate; and they firmly believe that the operation of the Act has been attended with very salutary effects on the moral habits of the labouring class.

"The medical arrangements for the present year are by contracts for attendance and the supply of medicines to all the paupers of the Union, the board of guardians intending to establish medical clubs for the ensuing year.

"I have only to observe that, from the inquiries I have made, there appears to exist in this district a better understanding between the employer and the servant than has been known for many years. At the meetings of the board the rates of wages are frequently discussed, and opinion expressed highly favourable to the interests of the labouring man, who has now a much greater opportunity of obtaining work than he had when permitted to confine himself to the limits of his own parish. I have, &c. *James O. Penfold.*"

Colchester Union.

Colchester Union.

G. Stokes, Esq.

Union declared, 19 October 1835.
Population in 1831,—16,167.
Average Annual Expenditure, £ 10,155.
Able-bodied relieved for lost time in the course of one year, 187.

Colchester, 11 July 1836.

"1. The reduction of able-bodied pauperism may be reported as considerable. I am not aware of any able-bodied paupers now receiving relief, excepting in the case of sickness and some where there are large families; these latter are gradually diminishing, and I apprehend will nearly, if not altogether, disappear from our list, when we are enabled to receive a larger number of children into the house. The names now on our list for out-relief are chiefly the aged, the incapable, and children. The number on our list for out-relief at the present time, including children, is diminished about one-fourth in comparison with the number at the end of March last. The total receiving out-relief then was about 1704, now it is about 1,332. The number of inmates at the commencement of our Union in January was about 90; it is now about from 130 to 140.

"2. The reduction of general expenditure can only be stated in reference to the last quarter, as we have only been fairly at work during that period. The average quarterly expenditure during the last three years, under the old law, gave an amount of 2,538 *l.* 15 *s.*; the actual expenditure in the quarter ending at Midsummer, under the new law, is about 1,750 *l.*, consequently a reduction below the average of about one-third. It is to be observed that this being a town Union, the instances of labourers receiving relief from the rates were very few, and several of the parishes had reduced their expenditure very considerably during the last six, or eight years.

"3. There has not been time for much observation as to any change of habits or manners of the labouring class. Less disposition to resist the change may be observed, now the provisions of the law are better understood, and some indolent characters have been roused to exertion. Certainly some improvement may be reported. Still the dislike to the new law continues, and there is considerable opposition manifested to it by persons of the middle and upper classes, who were in some respects interested in the continuance of the old system, or whose prejudices and party feeling, have been exerted in opposition to the present measure. There are many who try in underhanded ways to impede the working of the new law by vaxatious proceedings.

"4. The medical arrangements of our Union are strictly in conformity to the club principle recommended in your circular in March. The out-relief is committed to three medical firms; the workhouses and the whole midwifery of the Union are undertaken by a fourth. The number of free subscribers is about half as many as the pauper list, and would have been larger had there been a longer interval for letting the arrangement be known; this can be

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attended to another year. It is necessary here to remark that the Colchester Union is particularly well situated for this plan of medical relief, and towns in general will be found so; but it will not be enabled to work so satisfactorily in country districts, where there is not a choice of respectable practitioners on the spot. Here, indeed, the new system of medical relief appears to work better than the old.

"We have wholly done away the practice of payment of rents which had been carried to a considerable extent here, and had introduced a good many abuses. We have also wholly declined giving clothing as out-relief, excepting in a few cases of destitute paupers leaving the houses. The workhouse system cannot be fairly tried till we have a central house; we are just commencing one, which is to be completed 25th March next.

"The board of guardians wish to report their opinion decidedly in favour of the new law, and believe the operation of it will, in the end, be very beneficial to the town, though under its peculiar local circumstances the early results cannot be so considerable or so manifest as in country districts, where wages have largely been paid out of the rates.

"We do not find that reluctance to accept in-door relief which is spoken of as having been remarked in some Unions, though our regulations are in conformity to the instructions of the Commissioners. For this, however, we can assign local reasons, at least to a considerable extent. I am, &c. *G. Stokes.*"

Halstead Union.

Halstead Union.
Ashurst Majendie, Esq.

Union declared, 6 November 1835.
Population in 1831,—15,190.
Average Annual Expenditure, £16,715.
Able-bodied men receiving relief for lost time at the period of Inquiry, 500.

Hedingham Castle, 10 July 1836.

"I CONSIDER this a most difficult Union. In Sussex a high rate of wages has been established, as high as farmers profits could afford; the compulsory relief was unnecessary, and it required firmness and protection of the civil power only to enable the guardians to strike it off. Here we had, in part of the Union, wages of mere subsistence (7 *s.* per week), and the most confirmed pauperism without energy; the first efforts of improvement under the new law were, as you well know, followed by riotous proceedings, which rendered it necessary to call in the metropolitan police, and the chairman having become a marked person, his wheat rick was fired by an incendiary.

"The guardians proceeded to introduce the new system with discretion, and the two workhouses for able-bodied were put in order, with two hand corn-mills as soon as practicable; the able-bodied single men were immediately sent to the workhouse; but in a district decidedly over-peopled with agricultural labourers, the guardians applied that test to wilful paupers only, relieving many married labourers with families during the winter season, and pressed the system further when the spring rendered more easy their moving elsewhere for work. Offers of migration to the manufacturing districts were made; one family alone have accepted, an account of which I forward; the most advantageous terms were refused by others; the guardians therefore felt fully justified in tendering the workhouse as the only mode of relief to such persons. I had the opportunity of sending off about 20 persons to the Southampton Railway, where a tolerable labourer may earn from 3 *s.* per day to a much higher sum, if he becomes equal to the work; very many persons have moved off, and considering our great difficulties, and that the district is proved to have a real surplus, as I always supposed, I have every reason to be satisfied with our progress.

"There is one drawback, however: the pressure on the labourer by removing the allowance has not been compensated in some parishes as yet by an advance of wages; it must follow ere long, as in other places; the labourers know their position, and that if a small number move off, the labour-market must improve. The smaller occupiers will take advantage of the excess of hands to keep down wages, and small tradesmen will attempt to employ men for a portion of a week or day, and send them to the parish for the rest, unless resisted; but I trust what you have termed 'the parish straw-yard,' will not long continue to exist. There are already fears expressed that there are not men enough left to get in the harvest, and hopes that the board of guardians will not send any more away.

"Very many tickets for the workhouse have been accepted; in the first instance, the inmates refused to work; they said they were willing to work on the land if paid, but in spite of all remonstrance steadily refused all work in the house, and it became necessary to appeal to the magistrates, who sent from each workhouse some of the most refractory to hard labour at the house of correction; so inveterate was the persuasion that the farmers were bound to find work within their parish, that three families from one most pauperized parish, Ridgwell, accepted tickets for the house, one of which, a man and wife, with eight children, submitted for three weeks to the confinement, and 10 hours per day hard work at the mill; they left the house last board day, and I believe this example will have the best effect. We have never had enough able-bodied labourers to work the mill; and there remains at present only one able-bodied labourer in the Halstead Workhouse.

"As to your first question therefore, I may safely report that the greatest progress has been made in the reduction of able-bodied pauperism; the allowance system is almost entirely abolished; in some cases the board has offered to take one, two or three children from any large families. I should myself have preferred, in several of those cases, to have continued occasional relief in bread, and have thought it a more effectual mode of raising wages to take a whole family, by which there is a pressure of expense on the rate-payers, and not on the labourer only. A rise of wages has already taken place in the Halstead division.

"The

" The best evidence of the reduction of able-bodied pauperism, is the wasting away of the mass of unemployed labourers, which, in our bad parishes, used to continue till the period of corn harvest; their number amounted, within the Union, to many hundreds, and in the most pauperized parish of Sible Hedingham, there were in winter about 140, on an average, wholly out of work. In the third week of the month of July 1835, the number of unemployed was 89, at a weekly expense of 16 *l.*

" In July 1836, there is not a single able-bodied labourer out of employ. The same is the case in Toppesfield, and, I believe, throughout the Union; in fact, men have been wanting during the hay harvest. From the period that the guardians enforced the workhouse system, the labourers, though with more resistance and actual experience of the great remedy than I have heard of elsewhere, have been learning the necessity of providing for themselves; some have moved away, some find work in their parishes, some who were paid twice over by the needy small farmer and the parish, have received wages from the employer only.

" As to the second question our progress is most satisfactory. I cannot give you the accounts accurately, till the balance-sheet is made out for the last quarter. In the first quarter extra expenses were heavy; the repair and furniture of workhouses amounted to 1,200 *l.* Our average expenditure of the three years, on a population of 15,190 persons, 16,715 *l.*, something more than 1 *l.* per head; the estimate for the quarter from Midsummer to Michaelmas, 2,059 *l.*, and I am persuaded there will be a considerable balance in our favour. I may safely call the reduction at present 50 *l.* per cent. In my own parish of Castle Hedingham, in the year ending March 1834, the expenditure was, in a population of 1,220, 1,700 *l.*; some parts of the new system were then introduced, and the more important parts enforced since the Union, and the expenditure, March 1836, 1,204 *l.*, and at present at the rate of about 800 *l.* As a proof of the benefit to the farmer, I state that the saving on the quarter, as compared with that in 1835, will pay my harvest expenses.

" I feel fully persuaded that 10,000 *l.* per annum will ere long be struck off from the expenditure of this Union, and I feel equally persuaded that the deserving labourer will ultimately receive a considerable portion of this in wages.

" As to the third question, the guardians and the inhabitants of the different parishes represent the change in the habits of the labourers to exceed the most sanguine hopes of those who thought favourably of the new law, and to convince those who doubted its effects. Although from the ill-disposed and wilful paupers every kind of opposition has been shown, yet the forbearance and patience of the great mass of the labouring population has been most worthy of praise, and excites the greatest hopes for the future, when the farmer, finding the great diminution of his out-going, will become able and willing to pay better wages.

" On your fourth question I have nothing to say at present. On account of the low rate of wages, and the other more noxious elements of pauperism which required more urgent attention, we, under your sanction, continued till Michaelmas the same contract with the medical practitioners as had previously existed; the board are about to take into immediate consideration the best mode of introducing medical clubs, and I shall feel obliged by any information you can afford us, particularly as to assistance by honorary members.

" I am induced to say a word as to allotments; I feel satisfied that the introduction of allotments has materially contributed to the improvement of this parish, by the quantity of labour which has been thereby afforded, and that the pressure on the labourer, by withdrawing the allowance, may be materially alleviated, by giving that employment for the leisure hours of himself and family.

" I inclose a letter from the vice-chairman; you will not fail to notice what he writes as to the state of crime in the parish of Toppesfield, as connected with confirmed pauperism. The rector of the parish has lately begun to act as a magistrate, and has had abundant scope for his valuable exertions. Without the police, serious riots would have taken place in that parish.

" I extract a part of a letter from the relieving officer of the Hedingham division, thinking the very words of a person of his experience (being heretofore assistant-overseer of Sible Hedingham) worthy your notice. I must explain that two years ago a great public work was commenced, in cutting down Ballingdon Hill, at an expense of more than 3,000 *l.*; I, as one of the commissioners, stipulated that the labourers of the adjoining parishes should be employed, and hoped for great advantage, but was in a great measure disappointed:—

" ' Before the formation of the Union, the farmers did not care to employ any paupers, and it is a fact that out of the 134 out of employ in Sible Hedingham, not six men could be selected as volunteers for work going on at Ballingdon Hill. The parish selected at different times 20 paupers in receipt of 6 *s.*, 7 *s.*, 8 *s.*, 9 *s.* and 10 *s.* weekly relief, but only two could be found to stop, and 12 suffered imprisonment, so that in the end the parish were great sufferers, though they had anticipated the undertaking would have been a great benefit. This time last year Mr. Norris (the steward of a gentleman in an adjoining parish), would have put on 14 men to mowing, but only two would go. Respecting the habits of the men, I may say they are generally improved, both as regards industry, sobriety and civility. Instead of looking forward for the pay day, their minds are turned to looking after employment; the great mass of idlers congregating every week, is now completely broken up, and there is no congratulating each other how they had duped the parish, and spending their ill-gotten money at the public-house or beer-shop. In consequence of their connexion having been there broken up, we see no clusters standing together at the blacksmith's shop, nor has there been any midnight depredations: this parish I may safely say has not been so free from brawls and thefts for many years, as at the present moment.'

" If I get any letter from the other relieving officer, I will forward it. I beg you to make what use you please of any part of this letter. I am decidedly of opinion that though the

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expenditure in East Sussex was greater, as compared with population, the kind of pauperism existing in this district was a more confirmed and more noxious variety of the disease than that of Sussex. I have, &c. *Ashurst Majendie.*"

Tendring Union.

Tendring Union.
J. Martin Leake, Esq.

Union declared, 16 Nov. 1835.
Population in 1831,—21,002.
Average Annual Expenditure, £17,850.
Able-bodied men relieved for lost time in the course of one year, 645.

" Thorpe Hall, 9 July 1836.

" The quarterly abstract furnishes the following facts: There appears to have been an increase of paupers receiving in-door relief to the number of 177 as compared with the last quarter, and a decrease of 294 of those receiving out-door relief. This, I think, arises from our having sent many elderly people and children to the workhouses at Mistley and Bromley, which places were not ready for their reception last quarter. The workhouse at Thorpe for able-bodied men has at present no occupants of that character, but it has been applied to the reception of part of the Mistley paupers during the summer.

" The in-maintenance charges have been increased this quarter by the sum of 69*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*, and the out-door relief charges been diminished by 170 *l.* In consequence of an increase in the establishment charges of 307*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, there has been an increase in the general expenditure of 203*l.* 10*s.*; from this there follows a lessened expenditure in pauperism of 103*l.* 11*s.*

" With respect to any change of habits or behaviour in the labourers, I think I may add that a more independent spirit is to be observed in them, and in this I am borne out by the previous remark that there are no able-bodied men in Thorpe workhouse. The number has been gradually decreasing from 30 or 20 in March last. I am sorry to add that the throwing them on their own resources appears to have produced a combination among them, exhibiting in many of its features an illegal character.

" I inclose, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, their articles or rules, openly printed for the use of their 'union.' In consequence of the commitment of some men for an assault upon a Suffolk man who had engaged himself for the harvest in an Essex parish, these rules and articles will probably come under discussion at the ensuing assizes.

" I doubt whether our medical arrangements are quite satisfactory; there are a few clubs, but they are by no means general, and difficulties have occasionally arisen in cases of emergency where the distance of the medical officer has prevented his attendance at the moment required.

" From the difference of opinion that prevails in the board of guardians as to the site of a common workhouse and the plan on which it should be built, we have hitherto made no progress in the construction of that necessary edifice.

" I remain, Sir, yours, &c. *J. Martin Leake.*"

Maldon Union.

Maldon Union.
John Payne, Esq.

Union declared, 14 December 1835.
Population in 1831,—18,917.
Average Annual Expenditure, £14,236.
Able-bodied men receiving relief for lost time during one year, 298.

" Dear Sir, Maldon, 6 July 1836.

" The reduction of able-bodied pauperism in this Union is very considerable, and will no doubt be carried to a much greater extent; but we have thought it inexpedient to act at first too severely; still I flatter myself you will think we have neither been inattentive to the intention of the Legislature or the interests of the rate-payers.

" Our reduction of expenditure is very large. The average payment of our rates for three years previous to forming this Union was 14,236 *l.*, and our quarter's disbursements ending 25th March were 1,219*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, showing a saving which must give general satisfaction; and I feel in no way has it been distressing to the deserving poor, who I am convinced are quite as well off as they were under the old system.

" The habits and behaviour of the labouring class are certainly improving. They feel they cannot now compel an overseer to relieve them as they used to do; they are consequently more cautious how they expend their earnings, and duly appreciate a good master; not captiously leaving their employ, as was too much the custom when they could demand relief from an overseer, without being subject to the searching inquiries they have now to submit themselves to.

" As to our medical department, we allow in this Union the surgeons to receive salaries in proportion to population and extent of country. In this district there is great difficulty in doing away with the prejudice attending the connexion with old clubs; still I have little doubt that our medical gentlemen will succeed in establishing societies upon the principles laid down in your circular; but time is more necessary on this point than any other under the Bill. The very great attention that has been paid the poor in sickness will facilitate the object you have in view. I am not aware of a single complaint against any of our medical gentlemen.

" Speaking generally, our Union works very satisfactorily; we are rapidly advancing towards the completion of our chief house, which when complete will, I have no doubt, be ample for the whole Union. Our applications for relief are decreasing, and our pauper population satisfied. I am, &c. *John Payne.*"

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Witham Union.

J. Strutt, Esq.

Witham Union.

Union declared, 15 December 1835.
Population in 1831,—14,380.
Average Annual Expenditure, £ 9,460.
Able-bodied males relieved in course of one year, 193.

"My dear Sir, 11 July 1836.

"HAVING been absent from home I have been unable to answer your queries so fully as I could have wished, but I have added some remarks of my own to Mr. Blood's official answer.

"Official Answers of Mr. *Blood*, Clerk to the Union.

Mr. Blood, Clerk to Guardians.

"The progress made in the reduction of able-bodied pauperism?

"'At the commencement of this Union all the parishes, with the exception of Terling and Witham, were in the habit of allowing able-bodied persons parochial assistance, and in some instances the parishes above mentioned did so.

"'During the past quarter a few were relieved on account of the size of their families, but on reviewing the lists at the commencement of the last quarter all allowance was discontinued out of the workhouse to able-bodied * males, except in cases of their wives' confinement, and then an allowance has sometimes been made for a month, but not longer.

"'Whenever out-door relief is refused, an order for the workhouse is given, but on an average not more than one in ten having such order goes into the workhouse; able-bodied † persons remain in but a very short time, and then find work and maintain themselves.

"'At present there is not a single able-bodied pauper in the workhouse, or receiving out-door relief, with the exception of one family, overlooked by the board, and which will be discontinued this quarter.

"The reduction of general expenditure?

"'The Witham Union has laid out more than 1,000 *l.* in alterations and additions to the workhouses, and necessary expenses incidental at the commencement of the Union. The money has been paid from rates raised during the two quarters, and the sum altogether not exceeding what ‡ had usually been paid for relief and expenses, it is fair to suppose that the ensuing quarter will show a very great reduction in general expenditure.

"Any change of habits or condition which may have been observable in the labouring class?

"'Numbers of labouring poor who under the old system never worked, or at most but rarely, now find work and maintain themselves; and in some parishes, with a large poor population, the overseers have remarked that the idle young men, who used in numbers to beset their gates, have now found work, and never hang about as they used to do. The beer shops are decidedly less frequented.

"'The spirit of opposition to the new Act has greatly subsided, and the better class of poor are decidedly reconciled to the change §.

"The medical arrangements at present existing in your Union, particularly as connected with the establishment of medical clubs?

"'The contract with the medical men, according to the divisions after-stated, has been made on the terms proposed by Mr. Power, except that instead of 2*s.* for a child above 16, 2*s.* 6*d.* was agreed to be given from every single person above that age. The following sums will serve as a guide to the arrangements existing at present:

Pauper List.

"'Amount in money to be paid to medical men for the 17 parishes for one quarter of a year both workhouses being included, 15*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*

Independent List.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Witham, one half year's subscription	7	15	6
Hatfield, one quarter year's subscription	4	2	–
Terling, one half year's subscription	6	19	6
Fausted, one half year's subscription	–	18	6
Faulkbourn, one quarter year's subscription	–	8	7
Wickham, one half year's subscription	2	11	–
Kelvedon, one half year's subscription	1	2	9

Great

* There are some able-bodied widows, with more than one child earning nothing, allowed something weekly.

† One large family came in and remained but two nights, going out of their own accord upon giving three hours notice.

‡ The expenditure of the parish of Terling, as compared with the corresponding quarter of last year, is a saving of 21*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*; from July to 24 June 1835, 112*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*; from July to 24 June 1836, 90*l.* 16*s.*

§ This remark is furnished by our clerk, Mr. Blood. I cannot assert it or contradict it on my own knowledge.

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	£.	s.	d.
Great Braxted, one half year's subscription - - - -	–	13	3
Messing, one half year's subscription - - - - -	6	18	–
Little Braxted, one half year's subscription - - - -	1	7	–
Great Coggeshall, one half year's subscription - - -	4	11	6
Feering, one quarter year's subscription - - - -	1	7	10
Little Coggeshall, one half year's subscription - - -	–	1	3

" 'The medical men in the Union are decidedly unfavourable to the present system. Some have formed clubs of their own, and there are numerous benefit clubs; at the same time there are many poor persons at present unprovided for with regard to medical attendance. During the last quarter, however, but four have been added to the pauper list.'

Continuation of Mr. *Strutt*'s Letter.

J. Strutt, Esq.

" The old contract with the medical man of Terling parish was 14*l.* 14*s.* per annum to attend all the poor; surgical cases extra. As the independent list under the new system amounts to 13*l.* 19*s.* per annum, the pauper list to 5*l.* 17*s.*, making 19*l.* 16*s.* for a limited number, I consider the medical man is better paid by our parish now than before the Union. This parish has had two families who required medicine who were upon neither list; the first made an arrangement by paying 10*s.* entrance, and to subscribe to the independent list; the other found his own doctor, and on his own credit. In both cases the men were assisted by their neighbours, and got more money than they needed by petty subscriptions.

" My own opinion, from the experience of my own parish, is, that the present system would remunerate the medical profession, provided overseers and churchwardens did their best to encourage the clubs; but in some parishes the money of the poor has been refused, and no efforts made to show the people the advantage of subscribing to a medical fund.

" I think the last recommendation of the Commissioners an improvement, especially as relates to two or more medical men being attached to each club, enabling the poor to have a choice, and creating an honourable rivalship, which will insure good attendance; but our difficulty will be to obtain medical candidates, especially in the Witham district of the Union, where there are but two surgeons, both in great practice, and unwilling to interfere with each other.

" There can be no question that a proper medical provision for the poor causes more difficulty than anything else in the working of our Union. Notwithstanding this difficulty I think you will allow we have not been idle, and have accomplished in the six months as much as most other Unions have done. On an ordinary day the time occupied at a weekly meeting for our 17 parishes does not exceed three hours. We have been able to accomplish the abolition of out-door relief to the able-bodied, and of making up wages without any disturbance on the part of the people. The wholesome system we are now pursuing doubtless has caused distress in some particular cases, but generally considered, instead of depressing and disturbing the people, it has served to animate them to unknown energy, and searching for work. This is very striking by the great addition of females working abroad, and the taking children from school to earn a few pence.

" I am convinced you exercised a sound discretion in making Witham the head of a Union, for the previous good management of that parish has been a guide for other parishes, and has contributed much to our progress in the reduction, or rather to our total abolition of able-bodied pauperism. I am, &c.

" Terling-place, 11 July 1836. *John Strutt.*"

Braintree Union.

Braintree Union.

G. Nottidge, Esq. Jun.

Union declared, 16 December 1835.
Population in 1831,—15,097.
Average Annual Expenditure, £ 15,813.
Able-bodied relieved for lost time in the course of one year, 385.

" Braintree, 12 July 1836.

" The proceedings of the Braintree Union have already produced most satisfactory results, both as regards the reduction of expenditure, and the improvement of the condition of the lower orders; but considering the short duration of its operations, it is clear that much must remain to be done. Our progress has been materially retarded for want of a proper Union house, and I am desirous of taking the regular measures to obtain one without delay. I wish I could say the board on this point was unanimous. The two houses now used by the Union are very ill suited for the purpose; nor do either of them possess advantages which would make it desirable to bestow much outlay upon them. In a project of such magnitude, it was not likely but that difficulties would arise in its progress; those which I have experienced have chiefly arisen from the misconception of well-intentioned persons who, by taking a confined view of the subject, cannot believe but that the new law is calculated to injure the poor; consequently it follows that there is a disposition to excuse the poor man from the payment of the rate, to place him on the pauper list for medical attendance, and to relieve aged and infirm people out of the house; not being aware, that by so doing they are taking the most effectual means of continuing them in the degraded state to which the late administration of the law had reduced them. Notwithstanding these obstacles, I have the pleasure to state that able-bodied pauperism has greatly decreased, and still continues to do so, and that a general reduction of expenditure has taken place, in some parishes to the extent of more than one half. I may also remark, that although the poor do not appear reconciled to the new order of things, they are become more respectful and circumspect in their conduct, knowing

knowing they must henceforth expect to receive the worth of labour from their employer as their ordinary means of support. Moreover a reciprocal and beneficial interest has been generated between the farmer and the agricultural labourer, since, within the last 12 months, wages throughout the Union have increased at least 1*s.* per week, which I attribute principally to two causes: one, the raising a demand for labour by ordering able-bodied paupers applying for relief into the Union house, and the other the increased interest which the master experiences, finding that his servant depends on him alone for support, and that he shall no longer have to pay for the undue maintenance of others in the form of a poor-rate. Looking at the present condition of the lower orders, and the prejudices (which I trust are but temporary) of some of their superiors, it is no matter of surprise to me that they themselves display so little emulation to avoid pauperism; though medical gentleman have undertaken to attend families residing out of the house at 18*d.* per head annually, very few have come forward as independent subscribers; thus, blind to their own interests, I have thought the board would do well to place all applicants in the first instance on the medical list, with the understanding that the sum paid should be advanced by way of loan, and where circumstances would admit, that repayment should be enforced. This course would naturally induce them, after the first year, to act for themselves. I have no doubt great impositions are practised through the system of relieving aged and infirm people out of the house, and that it operates as a check to industry amongst that class of persons. I have witnessed instances of men even between 70 and 80 years of age, entirely supporting themselves and their families, whilst others, equally capable of doing so, (but absolutely idle), have been in the receipt of the full amount of what the guardians allow to those who are totally unfit for work. I cannot help thinking it will become necessary to confine all ordinary cases of relief to the workhouse, and that by so doing the comfort of the really destitute and infirm paupers would be best consulted. I am, &c.

"To Alfred Power, Esq. *George Nottidge*, junior."

Newmarket Union.

Union declared, 30 December 1835.
Population in 1831,—24,148.
Average Annual Expenditure, £17,868.
Able-bodied men paid for lost time during one year, 554.

"Dear Sir, Newmarket, 7th July 1836.

"I CANNOT at present testify to quite so satisfactory a result from the establishment of this Union as you would desire to see, and without doubt find in other Unions in your district, arising, as I think,

"First, from the disinclination of the board of guardians, until lately, to apply the workhouse test to a sufficient extent.

"Secondly, from the difficulty of finding employment for the surplus labourers.

"As to the first of these causes: the evil attendant upon our present workhouses is their distance from each other and from the board, from which it was hardly to be expected that a committee could be found to make a weekly circuit of visitation, their want of the means of setting to work the able-bodied paupers sent there, and the extra expense of provisioning three houses for maintaining the inmates, and paying the salaries and board of as many masters with their families, instead of one; consequently many guardians of parishes preferred the giving out-door relief on the scale usually adopted by the board to the more expensive, but (which it was difficult to convince them of), the more efficacious means of extirpating pauperism, by offering extensively their workhouse orders. All this, I confidently expect, will be remedied upon the completion of the new central workhouse, which will afford the means of accommodating all the paupers whom it may be necessary or desirable to order to the workhouse under one uniform, efficient and economical system of maintenance and discipline.

"As to the second cause: the difficulty has been partly created by the occupiers in some of the parishes of the Union not agreeing well amongst themselves in employing the poor, and in the price of labour, partly from the unusual length and severity of the winter season, and partly from the agents of the Poor Law Commissioners failing to provide engagements for several very large families in the Union willing to migrate. Descriptive lists of the families, with certificates of character, were forwarded by me four months ago; they still remain unanswered, and the parties are continually applying to the board to know where they are to go.

"Although the reduction in able-bodied pauperism has not been so great in this Union as it perhaps ought to be in an agricultural district where nearly all the land is in cultivation, and where it might be expected all the labourers would find employment, yet I am happy to say that little or no disposition of ill-will has hitherto been manifested, either against the new poor laws themselves, or the authorities entrusted with the management of them. The people generally in this Union have been and are orderly and respectful, and I only regret that this state of things is likely to be disturbed by the unwarrantable intrusion of a Mr. Maberley, a clergyman, who ought to be better engaged than as an itinerant mob-creator, and disgracing his sacred calling by misleading the minds, and exciting and inflaming the passions of the most ignorant of the lower orders against a measure intended for their benefit, and to which they would otherwise be reconciled.

"The total expenditure of the Union this quarter is 2,891*l.* This taken, as I think it fairly may be, as the average of four quarters, gives 11,564*l.* per annum, being a saving, on the average of the three previous years, of 6,627*l.*; but from this sum are to be deducted other

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items of parochial expenditure not included in the books of the Union, the amount of which I have at present no means of ascertaining.

"The medical arrangements on the plan recommended by you, I consider, on the whole, to be satisfactory. The medical officers alone complain of the inadequacy of their remuneration; and one gentleman, for that reason, after being elected to a district, resigned, but the vacancy was immediately filled up, and not a single complaint has been heard from the poor, who in sickness were certainly never better, if so well, attended. Even as regards the medical officer's stipend, the system has worked well, where sufficient pains have been taken by themselves or the guardians or other influential persons in the establishment of the independent clubs. In the village of Kirtling, for instance, the doctor's salary for attending the sick poor, including everything, was formerly 15*l.* per annum. The Union, on the parish account, now pays him only 5*l.*, at 2*s.* per head, for 50 individuals on the permanent sick list; but there are 80 families subscribers to the independent club, which, at 4*s.* per family, adds 16*l.* to the medical officer's stipend; he therefore gains 6*l.* by the alteration, and the parish 10*l.* There are other parishes where the plan succeeds equally well for all parties; and I observe that in those parishes where the medical officers are ill paid, either no pains have been taken by the guardians and parish authorities to form independent sick clubs, or the poor have themselves formed them, and appointed the doctors to whom they have hitherto been accustomed instead of the medical officers of the districts, who may happen to be not so popular. This latter practice is certainly some drawback to the means of remunerating the medical officers of the Union. The board of guardians can, and of course do, recommend their own officers to the independent clubs; but beyond that it would be very impolitic to interfere.

"The building of the new workhouse is progressing rapidly, and will be finished, I believe, at a cost much less, considering the extent of accommodation to be afforded and its architectural merits, than any other in this or any adjoining county. The contractor took it at 2,000 *l.* less than the amount of some of the tenders sent in. I am, &c.

"To Alfred Power, Esq. *William Parr Isaacson.*"
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Epping Union.

Epping Union.

E. Philby, Esq.

Union declared, 16 January 1836.
Population in 1831,—14,734.
Average Annual Expenditure, £ 9,614.
Able-bodied men paid for lost time during one year, 240.

"Dear Sir, Loughton Bridge, 26 July 1836.

"I FEEL great pleasure in complying with your request relative to the formation of our Union in January last; and although we have not reduced our expenditure to the extent that some Unions have, it must be observed, that we were not so highly pauperised as many parts of the country were; but we have had sufficient proof to convince us of the good effect of the system.

"I fear you have thought me long in replying to your letter; but I was desirous of sending you the exact account of the last quarter, which has caused the delay.

"In respect to the reduction of able-bodied paupers, I can confidently state it far exceeds our expectation. When our Union (consisting of 18 parishes), was formed in January last, we had much difficulty in getting employ for the surplus labourers, until we erected a mill for grinding flour in Harlow workhouse. We then had to contend with much turbulence, threatening and opposition; this, I think, arose principally from the fear of being separated from their wives and children. We met this with determined firmness, and insisted upon the men going into the house, and allowed their wives and children 6*d.* per head, and one loaf of bread per week, in preference to sending them in, and breaking up their little establishments. The result of this plan has been, that the men, in a very short time, expressed their wish to return home and seek employment; and although the spring was very unpropitious, they have scarcely troubled us since.

"We have not at this time one able-bodied pauper in the workhouse; the present season may, in some degree, account for this, but not to the full extent.

"In my own parish (Loughton), we have not had one able-bodied labourer apply to the board since the formation of the Union. In the two preceding years we were very much troubled with surplus labourers; and not having a workhouse, our only resource was to put them into the forest to dig gravel, of which we always had a large quantity on our hands, to the amount of 4,000 or 5,000 square yards, as we found great difficulty in selling it. This was a great burthen upon our rates, and by the new system entirely removed.

"In the parish of Matching, the most troublesome and highly pauperised we have had to contend with, the labourers could not get employment in their own parish; and formerly, instead of seeking for it elsewhere, they applied to the magistrates for relief, which was granted. We have but one now upon the books, a widower, named Martin, who has deserted his children, and they are supported in the workhouse.

"From Mr. Goodwin, of Harlow, our vice-chairman, I subjoin the following account of that parish:

"As regards the reduction of able-bodied paupers, as churchwarden, and having attended the weekly payment of paupers previous to and since the formation of the Union, I can state that several able-bodied labourers, who, under the old law, were receiving relief, have been for some time supporting their wives and children by their own exertions. I believe them to

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Appendix (B.)

No. 4.
Report of
Alfred Power, Esq.

be generally improved in their habits, more sober and industrious; and their wives and children are in a better condition than when they were receiving parochial relief.

"In respect to our reduction in expenditure, I enclose the following:

The average of the whole Union, as furnished by the Commissioners	£. 9,614 – –
The fourth part - - - - - - - - - - -	2,403 – –
The whole expenditure for the quarter ending the 24th June - -	1,530 – –
Showing a saving in the quarter ending 24th June - -	£. 873 – –

"In this many sums are included which may be considered as establishment expenses. In addition to these, we have three workhouses, with rent and salaries to each; when we have a central one, a considerable reduction will take place.

"Our adult poor are kept at about 2*s*. per head per week; the children at a less expense. Many who were very averse to going into the workhouse, now admit they are better off than under the old law.

"We have adopted the plan you recommended as to medical attendance, but experience many difficulties, which, in my opinion cannot be easily obviated: for instance, the paupers are first placed upon a list in the parishes where they reside; in the course of the year they are liable to be removed by the board to the workhouse, which may be under the care of another doctor, consequently they are paid for twice. At the present low ratio it is not of much importance; but should the medical attendants be more adequately remunerated, I consider it a point worthy attention. I must beg to observe, upon the present plan, the difference between children and adults is too great, as the former are more liable to diseases than the latter; if I may venture my opinion, I think they ought to be upon the same terms.

"Our medical men have, generally speaking, given satisfaction. We have considered some of them have been too frequent in their recommendations of wine, brandy and nutritives; this has been noticed by the board, and in some instances checked.

"We do not find the labourers in our Union disposed to enter into voluntary clubs so generally as we would wish. I remain, &c. *E. Philby.*"

Lexden and Winstree Union.

Lexden and Winstree Union.

Union declared, 1 February 1836.
Population in 1831,—19,549.
Average Annual Expenditure, £ 16,499.
Able-bodied men paid for lost time in the course of the year, 524.

Charles Round, Esq.

"Birch Hall, Colchester, 8 July 1836.

"The Lexden Union has not been in operation more than four months, during the greater part of which time the workhouse arrangements for receiving the able-bodied paupers were in an incomplete state.

"We have steadily refused out-door relief to non-resident able-bodied paupers, and also to resident able-bodied paupers whose incumbrances were small, or whose characters were bad, or who were evidently improvident and careless about obtaining work, or retaining their situations or husbanding their earnings. Where we granted out-door relief to the able-bodied, it was done under special circumstances, with an intimation that it was an indulgence, and that it could not be continued for any time.

"We have put an end to allowances (many of them considerable ones) with families, offering, at the same time, to take any child which the parents found themselves unable to maintain, which offer has been, in almost all instances, declined. In this way we have brought a great many able-bodied to seek earnestly for work, and they have found it; an offer of the workhouse has brought many others to exert themselves to gain a livelihood in an honest way. I think it will appear that by these means many claims upon parishes, which ought never to have been made, have been put a stop to.

"I incline to think that there are other heads upon which there has been a diminution of expenditure, such as occasional donations or distributions of clothing, monthly or otherwise, and allowances with young persons put out as servants. Upon this latter head, perhaps, the practice of the Union is not so rigidly correct as I hope one day to see it.

"With respect to any change of habits or behaviour which may have been observable in the labouring class, I cannot state any facts which have come under my own eye; but I have heard it observed, that the keepers of beer-shops complain of diminished returns, that the country fairs are not so numerously frequented as they were, and that the young countrymen are more careful of their money.

"The medical arrangements of the Union are those which were suggested in your circular letter of the 11th of February. The Union was divided into eight districts; and a contract was accepted for the pauper schedule of each district, for a year from Lady-day, upon the terms suggested in the circular.

"The medical men complain that the terms are too low: as far as I can judge, I think there is some foundation for the complaint.

"In my own parish a large independent club has been formed for the remainder of a year from Lady-day, upon the terms of the circular; and I believe the same has been done in some of the other parishes. I think that when the law is better understood, and when the workhouse arrangements for the Union are more complete, the subscriptions to these medical clubs will increase.

"My opinion, Sir, is, that the law is operating very beneficially in this neighbourhood, and that it will not be long before this will be generally admitted.

"I remain, &c. *Charles Round.*"

Able-bodied pauperism.

The first topic which a perusal of the above correspondence suggests, is the present state of able-bodied pauperism in this district.

In my Report of last year I ventured to anticipate, from an examination of the elements of this branch of pauperism, that the workhouse system, which had then been proved perfectly successful in a number of isolated cases, would be found equally applicable and operate with equal success over the surface of an extended district; and that the existing belief of a considerable surplus of agricultural labourers in those counties with which I was connected would be shown by the workhouse system to have no foundation in reality.

The chief elements into which the evil at that time appeared to me to resolve itself, and which I then mentioned as forming the grounds of my sanguine expectations, were the following:

The irregularities occasioned in farming practice as to the employment of labourers, by the operation of the out-door relief or lost time system; the low rate of wages, as arising from the indifference of the men to work, and the consequent depreciation of the intrinsic value of their labour; the misapplication of earnings actually realized; and lastly, the practice of deriving employment for paupers from the common stock, whereby more paupers were created.

Extinction of able-bodied pauperism.

One point which appears satisfactorily established by the series of communications above given, is that over every part of the district earliest formed into Union the result has been as anticipated in the previous Report, and that in every one of those Unions, without exception, rapid progress has been made towards the utter extinction of able-bodied pauperism. I can add, from personal knowledge, that in the Unions latest formed the same line of practice has been confidently pursued with a corresponding rapidity of success in proportion to the time during which the law has been in operation. So that over the whole district it may now be stated that a rapid advance has been made to the total suppression of this branch of pauperism.

But it has been alleged, and some of my correspondents appear to admit this impression in too considerable a degree, that the bulk of the last harvest was so great as to account for the unusual absorption of agricultural labour. I admit that the season was highly favourable to the operation of the new system, and that it was more than usually productive of resources to the labouring man, especially in those quarters where the new law had been brought into operation; there was in fact more employment, and much more employment, afloat than in any recent former season; but I cannot admit that this great increase of employment was owing solely or mainly to so precarious a cause as the bulk of the harvest, or to another cause which has been alleged, the demand for labour existing in distant parts of the country. Neither again can I allow that the increased amount of employment, great as that increase from various sources (as will be seen hereafter) may have been, can account in any great degree for the sudden and universal disappearance of the applications "to be paid for lost time," knowing as I do that the latter practice may co-exist in full vigour with the most abundant state of employment. Otherwise it would not have happened last harvest (which I perfectly know to have been the case) that the wheat was rotting in Rochford hundred and others of the southern hundreds of Essex for want of hands to reap it, at a guinea and 24*s.* an acre, at the very same time that able-bodied healthy men were lying under the hedges, with a parish allowance of 3*s.* a week in another part of the same county, not at that time under the operation of the new law.

Not to be attributed to the favourable season.

A few matters of fact, which I will now adduce, will clearly establish one or other of these alternative positions,—either that the increased amount of employment during the last winter and spring was not so great in those quarters where the new law had not come into effect as in those in which it had, or that we are wrong in attributing the disappearance of able-bodied pauperism mainly to this cause. The following are the facts to which I allude:

Parishes not interfered with remain as much pauperized as ever.

In certain parts of Essex and Cambridgeshire, which were not brought under Union management until a late period of the last year, or until after the commencement of the present, as absolute and confirmed a state of able-bodied pauperism was found existing as at any former period in any part of the district.

For example, in the Halstead Union at the time of its formation, and for many weeks subsequently, one parish alone, that of Sible Hedingham, had 130 able-bodied paupers to maintain, together with their wives and children, as being wholly at that time out of work. The same state of things existed more or less in the other parishes of that Union, which was not formed until November 1835. At the same point of time, and indeed during the whole interval from last corn harvest to the present hay season, the 26 parishes of the Dunmow Union (formed 25th March 1835) could not supply a sufficient number of unemployed men to keep one of the two workhouse hand-mills in motion, a gang of nine only being necessary for that purpose. For some seasons past the parishes of Dunmow Union would have averaged between 300 and 400 able-bodied men during the greater portion of the same period wholly without employment.

Halstead Union.

I have selected this Union for comparison with the Halstead district, because very nearly adjoining, and more parallel to it in its circumstances than any other; although certainly no part of Essex or Cambridgeshire could compete with Halstead Union at the time of its formation for the degree of pauperism, and the extreme low state of wages. It is seen, nevertheless, from Mr. Majendie's valuable communication that notwithstanding all the disadvantages of commencing late in the season, and the violent resistance offered to the guardians, in the first instance, the workhouse system has already brought the able-bodied pauperism perfectly under check and control.

Isle of Ely.

In the Newmarket Union, in some parishes of the Chesterton Union, and in the whole of the Isle of Ely, where the Union arrangements did not come into effect until the spring of the present

present year, the able-bodied pauperism was found as rife and full of vigour as it was in the south of the same county at the same period of the preceding year; yet it appears very fully from the Linton, Caxton and Royston correspondence that the able-bodied pauperism in that southern part of the county had, at the same period, almost entirely disappeared.

Present bad state of the parish of Whittlesea.

There is at the present time, within the limits of my district, one parish, containing a larger and more thoroughly pauperized agricultural population than any other perhaps in England, I mean the parish of Whittlesea, in the Isle of Ely, which contains 24,500 acres; a population of 6,019; and is burdened with an average expenditure of 4,010 *l.* perannum.

This lavish expenditure of poor-rates, together with the operation of some very extensive charities, has so thoroughly corrupted a portion of the labouring population, that the place is proverbial for every sort of crime and depredation, and is said to supply a greater number of bad criminal cases for trial at the assizes and quarter sessions, than all the remainder of the Isle of Ely.

On visiting this parish, for the first time, several months since, I was struck with the extreme difficulty which in all probability would occur in carrying into effect in this parish such a reform as had at that time been fully introduced, under my own superintendence, into many large Unions in Essex, Herts and Cambridgeshire. The population, instead of being scattered in villages, was here condensed in one large agricultural town. The workhouse, totally unclassified, was occupied by some of the worst characters, with their wives and families, while a vast number of able-bodied men (averaging from 150 to 200) were in the constant receipt of out-door relief. The worst feature of the case was the prospect of having to manage this parish from within itself, the select vestry having for some time made very active but unavailing attempts to check and bring under control the able-bodied pauperism. In consequence of these attempts the chairman of the select vestry was, recently, before my visit, subjected to a very heavy loss by some malicious persons cutting and maiming his cattle.

The Peterborough Union had already been formed by Mr. Earle, from the centre of which Whittlesea is only six miles distant, and I felt desirous that, if possible, Whittlesea should be attached to that Union, by which means its reformation might be effected with comparative ease, safety and rapidity. The select vestry at that time were not very favourably disposed toward this proposition, and having very urgent engagements in other quarters, I left this parish without further interference for several months. At the end of that time, and indeed within the last few weeks, I again attended with my colleague, Colonel Wade, at a special meeting of the select vestry convened for the purpose; and at this meeting that body came to a unanimous resolution that it was desirable to join the Peterborough Union. By a few months further experience they had been led to see their own position in its true light, and anxiously to desire a change of system like that which had been introduced into the Unions around them.

Upon this it was determined by Colonel Wade and myself that every exertion should be made to induce the guardians of Peterborough Union to give the necessary consent to the addition of the parish of Whittlesea to that Union. In this I regret to say that we have failed; and still more do I regret that we have failed even in gaining the co-operation of the noble chairman, Earl Fitzwilliam, in effecting an object confessedly desirable on public grounds. This latter circumstance places future success out of the question.

The parish of Whittlesea remains then hitherto untouched by any regulations or orders from your Board, and I have no hesitation in describing it as worse pauperised and worse conditioned at this present time than any parish I have ever seen or heard of.

I cannot then reconcile it to my own experience of facts, that the bulk of the late harvest, or the existence of a general abundance of employment has had much to do with the diminution of able-bodied pauperism. That a great increase of employment has, independently of the bulk of produce, accompanied the reduction of the poor-rates, and the changed behaviour of the men, I fully believe to have been the case; I believe also that this has been found chiefly in districts where the new law has been introduced, and to have been owing in great measure to the introduction of that law.

Increase of resources to the labourer arises from the effects of the new system.

That a certain increase of resources was likely to arise, and has in effect arisen to the independent labouring man, by the mere operation of the new law, will be best seen by following out the specific effects produced by the new system on the several elements of able-bodied pauperism enumerated in my last Report.

In that report the farmers in a pauperised parish were described as turning off their men from want of means to meet the Saturday nights' payments, being themselves pauperised by the amount of poor's-rates. They were described also as barely keeping up the cultivation of their land, by resorting to the occasional services of the parish men, and turning off all hands at every unfavourable change of the season, thus using the least possible amount of labour which might barely suffice to serve their purpose. Under present circumstances, being enabled to calculate on a reduction of one-half, or one-third, or one-fourth, as the case may be, of the rates formerly paid, the farmer applies the difference to an additional outlay on labour. In extremely pauperised agricultural parishes it may be assumed that the whole difference saved by the farmer in poor-rates will be applied to the employment of additional labour, since it is notorious that from this application that difference has heretofore been withdrawn; this being the readiest mode of retrenchment which offers itself to the farmer in difficulties, and one which has of late years helped to make the able-bodied pauperism accumulate with such frightful rapidity. It is a favourable circumstance also, that at the point of return to a better system much of the land, through an imperfect state of cultivation for some time past, stands in need of every farthing which can be spared to the employment

Poor-rates saved are converted into wages.

of labour. Neither must this advantage be considered as one of temporary operation. A present additional outlay in labour gives not only present employment, but generates sources of employment hereafter. If land is ploughed twice instead of once, or a process of under-drainage effected, there will be more corn to be reaped and housed, more bulk to be threshed, more grain to be carried to market, more manure to be prepared, carted and spread.

Farming employment more regular and steady.

Under present circumstances also, the occupier of land is forced into a more regular practice in the employment of labour. He cannot venture to turn away people who suit him for short spaces of time, nor will the labourer any longer endure this kind of treatment. The parish straw-yard is taken away by the substitution of the workhouse system for out-door relief; and a man dismissed is not now to be found lingering in the gravel-pit; nor will he put up with the hard bargain which is made with him at that substitute for the gravel-pit, the workhouse hand-mill, namely, bare maintenance in return for a full day's labour; he is gone to look for better terms, and is, in fact, seeking an employer, instead of waiting until an employer shall come to seek for him. In this respect the farmer has lost in convenience what the labourer has gained in energy and independence.

Improved industry of the labourers.

But, on the other hand, the man is not so indifferent to retaining the service which maintains him in independence of workhouse relief, and consequently his views are entirely changed as to the amount of work to be done for the wages of the private employer, and also as to the manner of doing it. Increased necessities and motives have thus sprung up on both sides for a continuance of that service which formerly hung so loosely between the parties, and the tie which holds master and man together is immeasurably strengthened by the change.

It is to be observed, that on this subject of the improved industry of the labourer, a more entire unanimity prevails in the correspondence adduced than on any other point.

In consideration again of the latter effect, namely, the improved care and industry of the labourer, the master not only finds it worth while to employ him, but can afford to give him also a better rate of wages than formerly. In many parts of the district which have been longest under union, a sensible advance of wages has taken place; and though it is impossible to trace such an effect distinctly to its causes, there is obviously a tendency in the new system to produce such an effect, and that without prejudicing the profits of the employer.

Earnings not mis-spent as formerly.

The next specific effect produced on the resources of the labouring man, by the operation of the workhouse system is, that the earnings actually realized are not misapplied to the extent and in the manner in which they formerly were. This effect is a most productive origin of increased resources, since the intemperate habits which the out-door relief so fatally promoted, and which the workhouse system has so efficiently repressed, not only wasted the earnings made, but impaired the effectiveness of the powers of labour. The wide and constant operation of this effect is evidenced by the universally declining custom of the country beer-houses, and the disappearance of the groups of idlers from the accustomed corners.

Lastly, the change made in the manner of providing employment for able-bodied paupers has thrown open to the independent labourer many means of obtaining work, which formerly were forestalled and anticipated to keep in partial employment, on the public account, the many whom improvidence and bad conduct had brought to pauperism.

New mode of parish employment (by hand corn-mills) causes no injury to the independent labourer.

There was no part of the old system so grossly unjust in its operation as that which took away from the independent labourer the work he was willing to accept at fair wages, for the purpose of making it a means of sustenance to the idler, the spendthrift and the vagabond. It has long been a legalized practice to excuse persons, standing on the verge of pauperism, from their assessed contribution to the poor-rate; but to free them from this insensible, though oppressive taxation of their true resources was impracticable without effecting an entire reverse of system.

The mode of employing able-bodied paupers at this time, universally adopted in Essex, Cambridgeshire, and that part of Hertfordshire with which I have been connected, is setting them to work at hand corn-mills, to grind flour for the use of the workhouse establishment. Although subject to the apparent disadvantage, that no profit is made of the labour thus employed, the practice is well vindicated by the fact, that no parties are thrown out of work by it except the elements, wind and water; and the loss, whatever it may be, which is incurred by keeping men employed in unprofitable labour, falls entirely on the competent rate-payer, and not upon the resources of the independent labouring man.

Thus the whole of the road-work in the counties above mentioned, together with the incidental parochial public improvements must hereafter be done by independent labourers instead of paupers, as was universally the case heretofore; nor does this remark apply only to the parish roads, since it was a frequent practice with the managers of the trust-roads to purchase their material from the parishes adjoining the line, and often at a lower price than it could otherwise be obtained.

Here is at once a large mass of employment thrown open to the competition of the independent labourer, at a better rate of wages than has heretofore been paid for it.

Old abuses, injurious to the labouring man, weeded out.

Paupers are no longer to be hired in gangs by the private employer to stub woods, empty ponds, effect drainage, or dig land under contract with the parish for half the value of their labour. All these operations, and many others which might be enumerated with reference to the ancient, corrupt and by-gone practice, must be carried on hereafter by the employment of the independent labourer alone; and frequently it will become the interest of the employer to have such operations carried on at times when labour may be scarce, and therefore to be paid for at a premium instead of a pauper-rate of wages.

Boys, half men, old men and cripples will no longer be retained in the service of the employer, receiving about half what is sufficient to maintain them, the parish supplying the difference in the shape of clothing, lodging, maintenance in the poor-house, or regular

weekly allowance. The various abuses of the practice here referred to are well understood by the boards of guardians, as furnishing a convenience to the employer at the expense of the poor-rates, and as a tax upon the resources of the independent labourer, who is willing to perform the service at a fair and reasonable rate of wages.

On the strength of these facts and considerations, I am disposed to believe that the reduction of able-bodied pauperism has indeed been accompanied by a great increase of resources to the labouring man, but not owing in any great degree to the favourable nature of the season, although that has without doubt been more than usually productive of agricultural employment. I venture, indeed, and with confidence, to attribute this happy result to a less precarious cause than the nature of the season, namely, to that improved administration of the poor laws, which I believe to be permanently established and firmly rooted in the soil of the country.

Alleged increase of crime.

An increase of crime is noticed in the letter of the chairman of Dunmow Union. Although in a very pauperised district one may not be much surprised to hear of a temporary effect of this nature, this account does not correspond with the accounts which have reached me from other quarters of the district, nor do I believe that, regarding it even as a temporary effect, the same observation will generally apply where the new law has been carried into effect.

It is directly contrary, however, to all experience and reflection on the subject, that the reduction of able-bodied pauperism should not ultimately be followed by a great decrease of crime; and though I agree fully with Mr. Chesshyre on the expediency of exchanging the present constabulary system for a differently organized rural force, I do not share in his apprehension, that the effect he complains of will continue to prevail until a better system of police has been organized for its suppression.

Able-bodied pauperism more reduced than other branches of expenditure.

With regard to the reduction of general expenditure, although the accounts are satisfactory from all quarters, I am inclined to think that so immediate and rapid a reduction has not been effected in this district as in some other parts of the country. It was remarked in my former report, that the able-bodied pauperism did not appear to form a large proportion of the whole expenditure, and that the extinction of this social evil was not to be judged of by the pecuniary savings so much as by the changed habits and character of the men and the improved value of their labour. It has been my practice, nevertheless, to direct the attention of the boards of guardians to the immediate repression of able-bodied pauperism as the object of most pressing importance, and the test of the workhouse system has not been applied so rigidly to the other branches of pauperism as to this.

Small amount of saving in some parishes, but beneficial results universal.

The benefits conferred on individual parishes are not to be measured by the average savings of the entire Union, as every Union embraces some parishes in which little saving was to be effected.

The smaller class of parishes are those which were usually found the least encumbered with poor-rates, and on these it is alleged in some parts of the correspondence that the establishment expenses weigh heavily, and that little benefit has been conferred.

An effect of this nature was anticipated, with regard to small parishes, in my Report of last year. It was there shown to what an extent pauperism is often found existing in small parishes without making its appearance in the books. The compulsory employment of able-bodied men in such parishes has not been effected heretofore by levying rates for the purpose, but has more usually been borne by a tacit agreement and understanding among the rate-payers, when few in number. In this shape the evil has been found almost equally oppressive and burdensome to the agriculturist as actual out-goings in poor-rates, and the motives and energies of the men have been almost equally undermined by this system as by that of parish employment. On this head, therefore, the advantage gained by small parishes in having the means of offering the workhouse, has been almost equally great as in larger parishes, although not demonstrable to the same extent in figures. As regards other branches of pauperism, the workhouse system will, in the long run, be found extremely beneficial in a pecuniary point of view, to the entire class of small parishes; and this has already been found to be the case with respect to the generality, although not as yet perhaps in all instances; and it must be remarked that it was by a combination of funds alone that this class of parishes could possibly obtain the benefits of the workhouse system.

Medical relief.

Public attention has been more directed to the medical arrangements of the new Unions than to any other part of the measures adopted under the authority of the Poor Law Commission.

In order to understand the value of the change which is now in course of progress, it will be necessary to examine in detail the evils attendant on the former almost universal system of parish medical contract.

The practice of making a contract for medical attendance on all persons in whose favour an order might be granted during a certain period, necessarily involved a tendency to the following abuses:

Evils and abuses of the old system of medical contract.

The liability of the contractor being indefinite, there was a disposition on the part of the rate-payers and the parochial authorities to grant orders for medical assistance without scruple, and without reference to the circumstances of the applicant, because each additional case was attended with no additional expense to the parish.

The medical man, besides the legal obligation to which such a contract exposed him, and notwithstanding the unfair advantage occasionally taken of that contract, was disposed in the long run to acquiesce in this enlargement of the scope of his liabilities. The difficulty of obtaining the discharge of medical bills from the poorer class of customers made him indifferent to the loss of private practice incurred; and there was frequently a risk that if the patient were not attended on the parish account, but obliged to pay for himself,

himself, he might resort to some other medical man in preference to the parish contractor. This extension of the field of practice, and exclusion of rival practitioners, together with the security and regularity of payment to be expected from a public fund, as compared with the insecurity and difficulty of collecting from the private resources of the poorer patients, has given the medical man a prevailing interest, in the long run, to place the parish between himself and as large a class of such patients as possible.

Extensive range of medical pauperism.

Under the operation of such influences on the part of the rate-payers and the medical men, it is not to be wondered that we find a large mass of the labouring population gradually drawn within the pale of medical pauperism. Knowing well the nature of the contract, they have felt that they were asking a relief which it was no burden to the parish to grant, and they have been fain to escape a pecuniary obligation of uncertain amount at the sacrifice of their independence, foregoing too the choice of their own doctor, and the privilege of applying to him direct without the necessity of an order from the overseer.

The result has been that, in the district with which I have been connected, a very large section of the whole labouring population may be described as medical paupers. The practice has of course varied in different parishes; but generally speaking the unincumbered able-bodied labourer, without wife, or with few or no children, and earning whatever rate of wages has been considered equally an object for medical relief as the old and impotent, the widow and the orphan, or as the labourer who had to provide out of low wages for the wants of a numerous family.

Low rate of remuneration to the medical man.

With this extension of the liabilities of the medical contractor, it has been found next to impossible to combine a corresponding increase of remuneration for his services. The liberality exercised by successive officers (each competing with the rest for popularity) in granting orders on the medical contractor, has not been accompanied with a similar disposition towards the contractor himself. On the contrary every advantage has been taken, which might have been expected to be taken, of the anxiety existing among the medical men to accept on the lowest terms a field of practice so extensive, or, as it may be better described, their anxiety to keep each other out of a similar position of advantage.

Defective attendance on the poor.

Another bad consequence of the system has been, that the low scale of remuneration, given in proportion to the services exacted, has formed in some instances the excuse for defective attendance, and the supply of a worse description of drugs than could be safely supplied to the private patient.

To sum up the result, the parish has not been willing to pay adequately for the large class of patients it supplied, and the low scale of remuneration has made it difficult to the medical man, without great sacrifice, to attend properly on the parish patients.

Thus have the "indigent true poor," the legitimate objects of parish relief, been brought to suffer in the medical, as in other departments of relief, from the rash and indiscriminate attempt to extend the description implied in the word "poor" to parties never contemplated by the original spirit of the poor law.

Objects contemplated in a change of system.

The direct objects of any change in the system of medical relief would appear to be, to diminish the liabilities of the medical contractor, by excluding those who have heretofore been improperly admitted to share the benefits of the parish contract, and to remunerate him sufficiently for his attendance on those legitimate objects for whom medical assistance ought to be provided by the parish.

The question next occurs, who are the parties to be excluded from the benefit of the parish medical contract? According to that exact and strict principle, which we shall find developed in reverting to the original spirit of the English poor laws, the able-bodied labourer, exercising a regular calling as such, is no more entitled to this than to any other species of parochial relief.

Gradual withdrawal of the able-bodied class from medical pauperism.

In pursuance, nevertheless, of the wise and humane policy of those gradual operations, by which the Poor Law Amendment Act was intended to induce a return to the just principles of the original law, it is not to be wished that such a line of distinction as that above mentioned should be at once suddenly applied to all districts in which the new law is brought into operation. The unequal rate of wages existing in different localities, and the unequal resources of different strata of labouring population, inequalities mainly induced and sustained by the system of poor laws hitherto prevailing, might render the sudden introduction of one unvarying line of distinction the occasion of harshness in its immediate application to particular districts. The regulations, issued by your Board in the first instance to all Unions, do not enforce the immediate and direct suppression of able-bodied pauperism, even with reference to the receipt of regular or occasional allowance by the healthy and employed*. Much less were those regulations to be expected to lay down any absolute and imperative rule with respect to the allowance of medical relief to the able-bodied class.

Still it has always appeared to me desirable that, in every quarter where the new law might be introduced, a return to just principles, in the department of medical relief as well as in others, should be introduced in some degree without delay, and to such a degree as the circumstances of each particular Union might admit. I feel assured that I shall be pardoned for observing that your regulations on this head of medical relief did not enforce any line of proceeding directly tending to the exclusion of any portion of the class of able-bodied from the pale of medical pauperism.

Under

* No regulation, enforcing the stoppage of out-door relief to the able-bodied, has ever been issued to any of the Unions in my district, but the desired result has been produced, with less suddenness perhaps, though not with less certainty, by the voluntary practice of the Union boards.

Under these circumstances, a few weeks before the expiration of the medical contracts for the year ending March 1836, my attention was particularly drawn to the consideration of some course of proceeding which I could safely recommend to the several Union boards at that time formed and remaining under my superintendence; and for the purpose of communicating that recommendation a circular letter*, was addressed by me in February last to each board of guardians.

Circular letter on medical relief addressed to the boards of guardians.

The principal feature in the scheme there recommended had for its object the discontinuance of that vague and indefinite kind of contract between the medical man and the parish, which it has been before observed has been the source of all the evil complained of, tending as it did to draw indiscriminately within the pale of relief objects not contemplated by the true spirit of the English poor laws. The proposition was simply this, that the parties to whom the liability of the medical contractor in future were to extend should be marked out and defined by name at the commencement of the period of contract, there being made out for this purpose, in the first instance, a schedule or list of all those within the parish or district for whom the guardians might determine that medical relief should be provided from the parochial funds, in case of their falling ill during the period of contract.

The principle of excluding improper objects from the medical contract, by making out a pauper schedule.

This proposition appeared to be sufficiently elastic in its nature, that is capable of accommodating itself to the particular circumstances of each Union, according to the judgment and discretion of the respective boards of guardians, and at the same time to contain that principle of exclusion of improper objects which must necessarily attend any reform of this branch of poor-rate expenditure. To speak more minutely, one board of guardians might, from a due consideration of the resources of the labouring population under their superintendence, determine to place upon the pauper-schedule none but the aged, impotent or otherwise afflicted poor, the regular and legitimate objects of parochial relief, while another board might think it desirable, under peculiar circumstances, to admit a certain portion of the able-bodied labourers to the benefits of the parish contract, as an arrangement made desirable by present circumstances.

In every Union a line would be drawn somewhere, and in every Union that line would exclude many improper objects, who under the present system rely upon the parish for medical assistance, to the prejudice of all parties, the rate-payers, the medical man, and the indigent true poor; and the further advantage would be gained, that by making out the proper schedule in the first instance, those excluded from that document would thereby have due notice that they were expected to provide medical assistance for themselves.

It might be contended, as indeed it frequently has been, that the guardians having made such an arrangement as that above described, should there stop short, as on the exact limit of their province; and having ascertained the parties entitled to medical assistance from the public, should leave the class excluded from that privilege to make their own terms with their medical attendants. I fully believe that if this course had been pursued, and could have been safely followed up by a strict practice on the part of the guardians, the principle of medical insurance or medical clubs would, by force of its intrinsic advantages, have recommended itself to both the medical gentlemen and their poorer class of patients, as the arrangement most beneficial to both parties. But such is the inveterate state of medical pauperism, that it would be almost impossible for the boards of guardians to pursue a line of practice sufficiently strict in the exclusion of improper objects from the parish contract without incurring a risk of harshness and severity in particular cases, unless at the same time some practicable mode had been suggested to the parties excluded of providing medical assistance for themselves. Without such an auxiliary, therefore, as the medical club, it appeared probable that the pauper schedule would become nugatory, productive perhaps of increased expense to the rate-payers, and ultimately on that account be abandoned, and a return made to the old indefinite form of contract.

The establishment of medical clubs a necessary accompaniment to the pauper schedule.

It appeared desirable, therefore, in order to avoid all risk of individual cases of severity in effecting the change proposed, to accompany the plan of a definite pauper schedule by the subsidiary one of the independent medical club, and to use the powerful and extended agency of the boards of guardians for the purpose of its general introduction. This step was founded on the confident assumption that the principle of insurance would, in accordance with ascertained experience, be found most conducive to the interests of all parties concerned, as well as providing a humane and effective means to the repression of pauperism.

It accordingly was made a part of the plan, recommended by myself to the Union boards of my district, that the medical officer of each parish should engage to afford to the poorer part of the labouring class the opportunity of subscribing to a medical club. The portion of the labouring class to whom this engagement would be considered to extend were those who, under the existing system, the medical man would be held liable and be called upon to attend in case of sickness, under the usual form of parish contract. Beyond this range of objects it did not appear to be the proper province of the guardians to interfere, and it was only as withdrawing themselves gradually from the false position which the effects of the old system had caused them to occupy between the medical man and his legitimate customers, that they could be entitled to take any part whatever in the negociation.

Medical officer of the Union bound by his contract to open a medical club.

In ascertaining the proper amount of remuneration for medical attendance on the parties named in the pauper schedule, it would seem that the guardians must determine, *ipso facto*, the proper amount of remuneration to be paid by the proposed subscribers to the independent club; for while

The rate of subscription necessarily fixed by the guardians, in the first instance.

* *See* documents, Nos. 1 & 2, at the end of this Report.

Appendix (B.)
No. 4.
Report of
Alfred Power, Esq.

while on the one hand it would be expected that an equally efficient attendance should be given to both parties, namely, the pauper and the independent subscriber to the club, on the other hand, it would not be reasonable to expect that the public fund should secure to the medical attendant of the pauper a greater rate of remuneration than he would derive from the poorest class of his independent private patients. The means and resources therefore of the latter were to be looked to as indicating the proper rate of payment for the pauper schedule; and it appeared impossible that the guardians should ascertain the proper rate for one party without virtually fixing a standard also for the other.

On this ground, as well as on the ground already intimated, namely, that the negociation concerned only a class of persons who, but for the proposed arrangement, would continue to fall upon the parish (as usual) for medical relief, I ventured to suggest to the guardians that they should, of their own judgment, determine the rate of remuneration, as well for the independent club as for the pauper schedule; and that the same rate of remuneration should prevail for both classes of patients, attendance being provided for both on the principle of subscription and insurance.

This recommendation has been attended, as was to be expected, with different success in different Unions; and further, as was to be expected, with different degrees of success in different parishes of the same Union, wherever it has been adopted. It will be perceived from the correspondence adduced, that in some Unions the recommendation, although generally approved, has been postponed for execution until a further period; and that in those Unions in which it has been adopted, the success has depended in each parish on the degree of exertion made to introduce the plan.

Advantages obtained by the subscribers to the medical club.

One most certain result obtained from the experiment thus partially made, is, that in those cases where individual influence has been exerted with the labouring people in favour of the club system, they have shown themselves both able and willing to contribute their small quarterly subscriptions to the medical fund. The advantages obtained by them, in return for the very small deduction from their earnings required, are so great and so well appreciated, when properly pointed out, that there is little fear of a relapse into the old parochial system of farming the poor, when the club system has once been fairly tried. Besides the feeling of complete independence of the parish, the subscriber to the club obtains the privilege of choosing his own medical attendant, instead of having one chosen for him by the parish; and when sick he sends for him direct, without the necessity of applying to the overseer.

Forwardness of the labourers to subscribe.

Many instances have occurred, in which, upon a fair representation of these advantages, not only all the able-bodied labourers and their families in a parish have been induced to become independent subscribers to the medical club, but the regular paupers, who would as a matter of course be placed by the guardians on the pauper schedule, have volunteered to subscribe themselves, having contrived in some way or other to raise the necessary sums. In one parish of the Chesterton Union, in Cambridgeshire, out of 16 regular paupers, consisting of the aged, infirm, and otherwise helpless, 15 offered themselves as independent subscribers. The advice I have given in such cases has been, not to allow established paupers to be entered as independent subscribers to the club; but in all cases to place them on the pauper schedule, thereby subscribing for them on the parish account.

Increase of remuneration to the medical man.

The result to the medical man, in those instances where this disposition has been encouraged and led out, has been extremely favourable, even at the very low rates of subscription at present prevailing. On comparison with the former state of things it is invariably found in such cases that, while the extent of the contractor's liability has been much narrowed, the amount of his receipts has been considerably increased. *See* pages (246) and (248) of this Report.

Saving to the parish.

The result to the parishes in such cases has been, that instead of contracting for medical attendance on nearly the whole of its labouring population, its contract has been restrained to a very small proportion of the whole, the remainder having been called upon to contribute their portion of the contract from their own resources.

Occasional failure of medical clubs, from want of co-operation.

Although the cases in which complete success has been attained are by no means thinly scattered, yet the success of the experiment cannot be described as universal. In many parishes failure has occurred, not alone from the hostility generally evinced in the first instance by the medical gentlemen, but also from the want of co-operation of other influential parties. The medical men have felt a natural repugnance to being referred from the public fund to the private resources of the patients; and many individuals not pecuniarily interested, have taken an equally short-sighted view of the proposed arrangement, as being oppressive to the independent labourers, as well as injurious to the medical profession. I believe that these apprehensions are now fast giving way before the numerous instances of undoubtedly successful application of the club system which have occurred.

The communication made the Honourable J. J. Strutt, relating to the Witham Union, and that of Mr. Isaacson, relating to the Newmarket Union, will be found particularly instructive on this subject.

On the whole, I should say that the reports which I have received from my district, on the subject of the medical arrangements, must be considered as promising, at no distant period, the general introduction of the medical club, together with an effective repression of the medical pauperism heretofore so widely existing, and the removal of the various evils already described as resulting from the old parochial system of farming the poor.

Desirable that the medical men should fix the rate of subscription themselves.

With regard to that portion of the arrangements above described, which, although perfectly defensible under present circumstances, or rather under the circumstances which a short time ago existed, is perhaps open to objection in principle, (I allude to the dictation of the terms of subscription by the Union boards,) it may be observed that if the medical men would

cease

cease opposing themselves to the general principle of the medical club, there is no doubt they might fix their own terms with regard to the independent clubs; and there are few districts in which the resources of the labouring people would not bear a higher rate of subscription than that now established. It would then become the province of the Union boards to judge of the amount of remuneration to be paid for paupers from the amount of subscription paid by the lowest class of independent patients.

Nothing indeed would be so desirable as that the medical gentlemen should take the matter into their own hands, and fix the terms of subscription by reference to the resources of the able-bodied labourer in health.*

The Union boards might then safely adopt a course of practice, with reference to medical relief, which should force improper objects to make provision for themselves with a degree of regularity highly advantageous to the medical attendant as well as to the patients themselves.

Alleged cruelty of the new system.

I cannot conclude this report without adverting to the unscrupulous reflections which have been cast on the humanity of those immediately engaged in the administration of the new law. My observations will of course be confined to my own district. In the whole of this there is not one Union in which your authority to regulate the dispensation of relief has been carried further than the issue of the five following regulations, to which, mild and salutary as their operation has been found in practice, I think it would be difficult to find even a theoretical ground of objection:

Relief rules actually issued.

"1st. No relief shall be given in money (except in cases of sickness or accident) to any able-bodied male pauper who is in employment (the same not being parish work), and in the receipt of earnings; nor to any part of his family who shall be dependent on him, or for whose relief and maintenance he shall be liable.

"2d. If any able-bodied male pauper shall apply to be set to work by the parish, one-half at least of the relief which may be afforded to him or to his family shall be in kind.

"3d. One-half at least of the relief which may be afforded to widows or single women, not being aged or infirm, shall be in kind.

"4th. No relief shall be given to any able-bodied male pauper by payment or payments of, for, or on account of the rent for his house or lodging, or for the house or lodging of any part of his family who shall be dependent upon him, and for whose relief and maintenance he shall be liable, or by allowance towards such rent.

"5th. Except in case of accident, sickness or other urgent necessity, no relief shall be afforded from the poor-rates of any parish or place comprised in the said Union, to any pauper between the ages of 16 and 60, belonging to any such parish or place comprised in the said Union, who shall not be resident therein: Provided always, that this regulation shall not extend to any person, not being an able-bodied male pauper between the ages of 16 and 60, who shall, on the day herein appointed for the first meeting of the guardians, be in the receipt of relief from any parish or place comprised in the said Union, although not resident in such parish or place, and although such person shall continue a non-resident; but in every such case due inquiry shall be made as to the propriety of such relief being continued."

Latitude of discretion allowed to the boards of guardians in the administration of relief.

With the exception then of such a degree of restraint as may have been imposed by the above five regulations, the discretion and judgment of each board of guardians has been left perfectly free and unrestrained, both as to the proper objects of relief and the nature and amount of relief to be given in each case.

In a similar manner the rules issued for the government, classification and dietaries of the workhouses have been invariably submitted to the Union boards previous to their issue under your hand and seal, to give the guardians the opportunity of suggesting any modifications which might appear to them desirable. I know no case in which such suggestions have not received immediate attention, and scarcely any in which the suggestions made have not been acceded to. In some instances indeed, after the issue of the regulation, it has been withdrawn and another sent, more in accordance with the expressed wishes of the guardians to whom it had been directed.

Board of guardians a disinterested tribunal in each individual case.

Under these circumstances, the charge of severity and harshness in the dispensation of relief (if it can be sustained at all) falls chiefly upon the Union boards; and the first remark I would make with reference to this imputation is, that it is far from probable that an assembly of persons, constituted as these boards invariably are, should agree in the practice of harshness towards deserving objects of relief. Consisting principally of the most substantial and intelligent of the yeomanry residing within the Union, usually led and assisted in their proceedings by some of the more active magistrates and clergy, it must further be remembered, that a very large majority of these gentlemen can have no interest as rate-payers in the decision of any particular case which may come before them, further than the desire to establish a sound and uniform practice in all the parishes of their Union.

Humane tendencies in the Union boards.

2dly. I can bear witness, from a widely extended observation, that the bias prevailing at the Union boards is in fact on the side of indulgence to the pauper, and occasionally at rather too

* Those who deny the resources of the able-bodied labourers to be equal to the burthen of providing medical attendance (say 8*s.* per annum for man, wife and family), should examine the articles of the Tendring labourers combination, which actually compel from every able-bodied man in the district a levy of 14*s.* per annum, at the risk of his being wholly deprived of employment.

Appendix (B.)

too great a sacrifice of sound principle; and to this extent perhaps the charge against their humanity may be sustained; since true humanity in the dispensation of relief will never be found at variance with sound principles of action.

Result of inquiries into alleged cases of hardship.

3dly. The task has several times occurred to me of making a special and searching investigation into alleged cases of hardship and inhumanity; a task which I have always felt it my duty to undertake with promptitude, and prosecute thoroughly without regard to time or personal convenience. In all these cases, the details of which are well known to your Board, the humane and benevolent practice of the Union boards in the treatment of the aged and otherwise helpless poor, has been signally illustrated by an exhibition of the real facts, and such injuries have not only redounded to the credit, but also promoted the success of the new arrangements for affording relief, by satisfying the public mind of their propriety and expedience.

I have, &c.

A. Power.

Documents referred to in Mr. Power's Report, p. 255.

No. 1.

Gentlemen, Cambridge, 11th February 1836.

As the termination of the present parochial year is fast approaching, I think it right to address you on the subject of the future arrangements for affording medical relief within the several parishes of your Union.

The division of the whole Union into a proper number of districts, each to be under the care of one medical officer, is a subject which has in all probability already occupied your attention. Upon the nature of the contract to be made with each of those medical officers, I am prepared to make the following specific recommendation, which has been laid before the Poor Law Commissioners, and has received their decided approbation.

Immediate advertisement should be made (if necessary) for candidates to offer themselves, containing an exact description of the districts, and referring to the clerk of the Union for a view of the several contracts.

It is proposed that the entire contract should be in the nature of what is called a sick club or medical club; an institution confined to medical assistance alone, to which all persons contributing regularly, during health and sickness, a small annual sum, may ensure themselves against the risk of incurring professional bills to an unlimited amount.

First branch of contract.

The first branch of the contract will refer to a schedule containing the names of all those individuals residing in the district, on whose behalf the guardians think proper to subscribe from the funds of the several parishes to which the parties so subscribed for respectively belong. The medical officer will be required to give medical attendance and medicines and appliances of every description to all persons named in this schedule, (which may be called "The Pauper Schedule,") by order of the relieving officer or overseers of the respective parishes: the guardians to have the privilege of adding any name they may think proper during the period of contract.

Second branch of contract.

The second branch of the contract will bind the medical officer to admit as subscribers to the medical club, all persons of the labouring class who shall, on or before a certain day, (say the 25th March), tender their names, at a certain rate per head or family, for one year; after that day it will be at the option of the medical officer to admit any persons proposing themselves as subscribers, on such terms as may be agreed upon between the parties.

There does not appear to be any reason why the rate per head of the independent subscribers, tendering their names by the appointed time should vary from the rate per head of the persons named on the pauper schedule. There will, however, exist a difference, before alluded to, between the two branches of the contract, namely, that the guardians expressly reserve to themselves the privilege of adding any name to the pauper schedule at any time during the period of contract, paying only at the same rate per head as for those originally included. This provision will afford the opportunity of inserting the inmates of any workhouse which may be in any district, in the pauper schedule for that district, instead of having a separate contract for the establishment, and will be attended with other advantages, which recommend it as an indispensable part of the arrangement.

The above proposition is founded on two assumptions of fact, which are considered to be sufficiently established by experience.

1st.—That where the opportunity has been offered to the labouring class of subscribing to any institution of the kind proposed, they have shown themselves extremely ready to come forward as subscribers, and it is hoped that a very large class, now dependent on the parish only for medical assistance, may be induced to exert themselves and become independent of the parish in this respect also. On this point it will be proper to remark, that where the proper pauper schedule has been determined on by the board, or a committee appointed for that purpose, every possible means should be taken, by printing and circulating the schedule, that those omitted from that list are by that circumstance called on to subscribe to the independent branch of the club, and that otherwise they will incur the danger of running up a doctor's bill. The assistance of the guardians representing each parish, and that of the resident clergymen, may be calculated on as affording the most effective co-operation in obtaining independent subscribers to the club.

2dly.—It has been also established by experience, that where a club of this description is organized on a large scale, a very small rate of subscription will be found to produce a satisfactory result to the medical man such a rate of subscription indeed, as, even in districts

tricts most pauperized, and where the lowest wages are paid for labour, will form a very trifling deduction from the yearly earnings of the labouring man.

The exact terms of subscription will depend to a certain extent on local circumstances, but I would recommend the board of guardians, by all means, to fix the rate of subscription themselves in the first instance, and advertize the contract for the competition of candidates on the specific terms. Should this mode of proceeding happen to fail of its object in any way, resort might next be had to the system of contract by open tender.

It is suggested by some who have given this subject a practical consideration, that, under no circumstances and in no locality, the terms of annual subscription ought to exceed the rates respectively fixed in the following scale:

For an individual maintaining himself or herself - - - - -	3*s.* per annum.
For a man and his wife - - - - - - - - - -	4*s.* —
For each child in the family, and if one be subscribed for, all must -	6*d.* —
And for every person in the same family above the age of 16 - - -	2*s.* —

It has been suggested that the general contract ought not to include midwifery cases. This may be made the subject of a separate arrangement, involving a rate of subscription applicable to married females alone.

I have adopted this mode of submitting the above proposition for your consideration and adoption, hoping that I may shortly have the opportunity of discussing with you personally its general bearing and practical application to the circumstances of your Union, or of conferring with you on the comparative advantages of any other plan which you may feel disposed to adopt.

I am, &c.

Alfred Power,
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

The Guardians of Union.

No. 2.

Form of Medical Contract recommended by Mr. Power.

surgeon of in the county of hereby contracts and agrees with the guardians of Union, that he will on all occasions, when required by order of any board of the said guardians, or by order of any officer of any parish of the said Union, legally authorized to issue such order for medical relief, attend upon and supply all necessary medicines and medical and surgical appliances whatsoever to any of the persons mentioned by name in the schedule, entitled the Pauper Schedule (1) of district, No. of the said Union hereunto annexed; and that he will duly and faithfully perform the duties of medical officer of the said Union, for and during the term of one year, to commence from the day of next ensuing, receiving for the same the sum of for and in respect of every person mentioned by name in the said schedule, whether such person shall require or have medical relief during the said period of one year or not.

And the said hereby further agrees that he will receive as subscribers to a medical club all persons of the labouring class (2), resident in the district above-mentioned (3), who shall, on or before the day (4) of next, in the present year, tender themselves or be tendered as subscribers, on the terms and for the annual sums respectively hereinafter next mentioned, the same to be paid in advance of each quarter (5), by four equal quarterly instalments; namely, for an individual, male or female, ; for a man and his wife ; and for each member of a family, other than the father or mother, the sum of : Provided that every person in such family, above the age of 16, shall pay at the rate of per head: Provided also, that the said shall not be bound to receive as a subscriber to the said club any member of any family under the age of 16, unless at least one of the parents, if surviving, as well as each individual member of the said family under the age of 16 shall be tendered as a subscriber on the terms aforesaid. Provided also, that any child, born after the day of shall be received as a subscriber on the terms aforesaid, if tendered within one week from the time of its birth.

And the said hereby contracts and agrees that he will, upon the terms aforesaid, duly attend upon

Observations.

(1) *Pauper Schedule.*] If no medical club were established in the district, still it would appear desirable to make a list of those persons for whom the board of guardians might consider that medical assistance ought to be provided by the parish. Both parties, the guardians and the medical man, would then know precisely the subject-matter of the contract before they arranged the terms; and an approach would be made toward the establishment of a broad line between pauperism and independence. In the absence of the medical club, however, it would be necessary to include a much wider range in the Pauper Schedule, since all who were omitted from that list would be expected to make their own terms with their medical men, and pay their own bills. This, in cases of able-bodied men, encumbered with large families, would be attended with great difficulties both to the medical man and the applicants for medical advice. It would, therefore, be necessary, unless there were a medical club established, to include and describe as parish paupers in the proposed Schedule, a large class of persons whom the medical club would enable, at a small sacrifice, to avoid this stigma, and become perfectly independent.

(2) *Labouring class.*] It has been complained that this description is too vague and indefinite, and that it will inflict injustice on the medical men in some cases, as it will be construed to include many persons who would in the natural course of things make their own bargain with their medical man without resorting to the parish. The guardians, who are the only parties enabled to enforce this agreement against the medical man, will probably remove every difficulty on this head by their own construction of the nature of this contract; since they will not consider it their province to compel their medical officer to receive any person as a subscriber to the club, who there is not reason to suppose would, in case of sickness, resort to the parish for medical relief. Neither will the decision of the guardians, on the individual cases objected to by the medical man, be attended with any difficulty or loss of time; since they will be guided, for the most part, by the assurance of the medical man that he is prepared, at any time during the period of contract, to attend the parties objected to on their own account.

(3) *Resident in the district above mentioned.*] An opportunity of subscribing to some one medical club will thus be afforded to every person resident in the Union, whether settled or not settled in any parish thereof, for whom the guardians would be

 bound

bound to provide medical assistance in case of sickness. At the same time it is not proposed to restrain a person resident in one district from entering the club of the medical officer of another district, or from entering a club instituted by any medical man, not being an officer of the Union, upon any terms which can be agreed on between the parties. This freedom of choice, and the privilege of sending for medical help, without the intervention of the parish, will be a source of great sasisfaction to the labouring people.

(4) *On or before the day, &c.*] It does not appear desirable to introduce any compact obliging the medical man to receive subscribers after the day mentioned on any fixed terms, but to leave such arrangements, if proposed, altogether to his discretion as to terms, &c.

(5) *To be paid in advance of each quarter.*] In order to ensure regularity in these payments, and to prevent trouble in collecting, no provision is made in this contract for the case of subscriptions in arrear. In all such cases the medical man would be considered absolved from the obligation imposed by this branch of the contract, as it regarded the party or parties in arrear, who would thus be left to make their own terms for re-admission into the list of subscribers.

(6) *And the said, &c.*] In some Unions the midwifery branch of the contract has been exchanged for one which ensures attendance to general subscribers, at 10*s.* the case, if the medical man is called in.

(7) *The sum of, &c.*] This sum will not of necessity be the same in every district of the same Union, but may be fixed with reference to the area or other peculiarities of the district. The same observation applies to the terms of independent subscription in the several districts.

(8) The privilege reserved to the guardians in this last proviso is one which it will be both their interest and their duty to exercise as sparingly as possible, and in such a manner as not to encourage reliance on this resource in those who ought to become subscribers to the independent club. As regards the interests of the medical officer, it must be considered that the value of this privilege is calculated in the rate per head of those included in the Pauper Schedule; and although when the contract is once made, the medical officer will have to trust to a judicious exercise of this power by the board of guardians, yet it should be remembered that in case of application by any party, originally marked out by omission from the Schedule, as a person who ought to subscribe for himself, it will always be at the option of the medical officer, instead of causing the patient to be inserted in the Pauper Schedule, to attend him on his own account, or grant him admission to the independent club, on such terms as he may think proper.

(9) *Parish to which belonging.*] It will be proper to insert in this Schedule paupers belonging to other parishes than those of the Union.

A. Power.

upon and supply all necessary medicines and medical and surgical appliances whatsoever, to all persons admitted as such subscribers, and regularly paying their subscriptions as aforesaid, for and during the space of one year from the said day of next ensuing, cases of midwifery alone excepted.

And the said (6) hereby further agrees that he will attend upon and supply all necessary medicines and medical and surgical appliances whatsoever to any female during her confinement in labour, or during any other cause of sickness, who shall, on or before the said day of tender herself or be tendered as a subscriber to the said club, at the rate of for the space of one year.

And the guardians of the said Union hereby agree to pay the said the sum of (7) for every person named in the Pauper Schedule hereunto annexed. Provided always (8), and it is hereby further agreed on between the parties that if the guardians shall at any time during the said period of one year, from the said day of next ensuing, see fit to insert the name of any individual in the said Pauper Schedule, such person will be deemed to be included in the terms of the present agreement and contract as fully and effectually as if his or her name had originally been inserted in the said Pauper Schedule, before or at the time of signing this present contract and agreement.

Signed this day of in the year

Surgeon.

On behalf of the Guardians of the Union, Chairman.

PAUPER SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT, No. ( ), of UNION.

Names.	Residence.	(9) Parish to which belonging.

— No. 5. —

REPORT as to the Beneficial Results of the New Poor Laws in *Berks, Oxon,* and part of *Gloucester,* by *Thomas Stevens,* esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, (with Supplements A. and B.)

No. 5. Report of *T. Stevens,* Esq.

Gentlemen, June 4, 1836.

In compliance with your request I beg to report to you "my observations as to the general condition of the labouring classes, so far as they are affected by the administration of relief within the district assigned to me, and as to other results of the new poor laws." The effects appear to be so similar in every part of my district, that I have felt difficulty in selecting from the great mass of evidence before me. I may fairly say that the improvement is general; but the most striking examples will be found in those Unions where the principles of the new system have been most strictly adhered to. I shall endeavour to state concisely the result of my own observations, which are confirmed by the testimony of several intelligent persons in different parts of the district; and some of the most important depositions are subjoined to this report.

Supplement (A.) From Nos. 1 to 16.

Since the introduction of the new system, good labourers have been better off than inferior ones. Formerly it was otherwise; the idle, worthless man received from the parish for doing little or nothing as much as the industrious received for their hard labour; now the idle

idle men have no such resource, relief is given to them only in the workhouse. This they have been unwilling to accept, and from the want of a good character, have at first found some difficulty in getting regular employment; good labourers have been able to obtain constant employment, as it is always the interest of the farmer to employ them.

The result of this state of things has been a great and advancing improvement, in the character of the agricultural population. The labourers are more industrious, more civil and obliging, more trustworthy, and they are becoming more skilful. All this improvement is the necessary consequence of fair competition in the labour market, produced by withdrawing the bonus on idleness, and compelling every able man to support himself and his family, or seek relief in the workhouse.

The value of the labourers has increased with this improvement: this is first seen by the employment of what used to be considered the surplus population, next by a scarcity of hands which must follow, and a proportionate rise of wages. The employers and their labourers are thus brought into a state of mutual dependance, equally advantageous to the character of both. The master is obliged to be always considerate to the labourers in order to secure their services when work is most plentiful, and the labourer must be always attentive to the master's interest to secure employment through the winter. Supplement (A.) Nos. 5. 7 & 16.

The most important result likely to follow from the operation of the new system is a general improvement in the morals of the people. It has been observed that the young are less frequent visitants of the public-houses. The children are very early sent out by their parents into service, and removed from the temptation of idleness. Bastardy is no longer the high road to marriage; on the contrary, it has become a serious obstacle to it, as the husband is liable to maintain all his wife's former children as part of his own family: and since it is no longer the practice to proceed against the fathers of bastard children, one great means of seduction is removed; the woman will not be deceived by promises of marriage which she has not the power of enforcing through the agency of the parish officers. The very early and improvident marriages, so common under the old system, are less frequent; young people are beginning to feel that they must have a fair prospect of being able to maintain a family before they settle in life. Mutual affection between different members of a family is being restored; parents and children are more willing to provide for each other. They discover that combined exertion will obtain for them together support which they could not procure singly for themselves. It used to be not an uncommon practice for each inhabitant of the same cottage to keep his own food locked up in a separate cupboard; this has been the case even between the wife and husband. In proportion as the character of the independent man is higher than that of the pauper, pauperism itself is felt to be degrading. Every one who values his own respectability is anxious not to see his name included in the published lists of dependants on the parish. Nos. 18, 19. Nos. 6. 8. 20 & 21. No. 22. Nos. 24, 25 & 26.

Whilst the good effects above enumerated, have been produced by what has appeared to some a severe system of administering relief, it is very important to observe that the aged and really destitute are always as well and often better provided for than before. This is especially the case as regards medical attendance; and it is worthy of remark that the greatest improvement is acknowledged where the medical contracts have been most extended, and your suggestions have been most fully carried into effect. The largest contract has always proved most attractive, and has therefore excited the greatest competition amongst the medical practitioners. It has also proved most advantageous to the poor, as they have in such cases the first attention of the medical officer, whilst in smaller districts private practice is necessarily the chief object to which the care of the paupers must give place. I have made it my business to inquire particularly how the duties of the medical officers have been performed in the Newbury and Shipston-on-Stour Unions, where the most extended contracts have been made, and in each case the result of my inquiry has been most satisfactory. Many attempts have been made to throw discredit on Mr. Robinson, the medical officer of the Newbury Union, of whose skill and attention I have received the highest testimonials from thirty-seven of the most respectable inhabitants in the different parts of the Union. Some of these I take the liberty of transcribing, together with some examinations as to the conduct of Mr. Burrow, the medical officer of the Shipston-on-Stour Union. Mr. Burrow has so systematised his district as to secure a visit regularly to all his patients every other day from either himself or his assistant. In any case requiring more frequent attendance, of course it is given. No. 15. Supplement (B.) No. 22. Medical Relief. Nos. 22, 23, 24 & 25. No. 13.

Although so much good has already been effected by the regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners, similar control is needed over other branches of parochial expenditure, Charges which formerly existed on the poor-rate, are now sometimes improperly transferred to the surveyor's rate, and thus a strict adherence to principle in the administration of relief is evaded. Instances have occurred in which surplus labourers, improperly so called, have been relieved by the surveyors who ought to have been refused out-door relief by the Board of Guardians. If any further change should be contemplated by the Legislature, I would suggest that the repair of the roads should be performed by open contract. Otherwise it will be found that the worst hands find a refuge under the surveyor, and the better class of labourers will be deprived of their fair chance in the competition for this employment.

It is unnecessary for me to allude to the extraordinary saving effected under the present regulations, as the returns already in your possession afford ample information on this head. In many instances the expenditure has been reduced considerably more than 40 per cent. In the parish of Bradfield, with which I have been most connected, it has amounted to upwards of 50 per cent. The great success of your measures in my district is to be attributed chiefly to the able exertions of my predecessor, Mr. Gulson, aided as they have always been

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been by the cordial co-operation of the nobility, gentry and yeomanry, of whose kind attention and assistance during the short time I have been in office I cannot speak too warmly.

I have, &c.
Thomas Stevens,
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Supplement (A.) to Mr. Stevens's Report.

No. 1.—*William Stone*, esq., Streatley House, near Reading, J. P. for the County of Berks.

I have observed in many parishes in this neighbourhood, (though not in my own) before the Union was established, able-bodied labourers with families were relieved upon the roads, and received for doing next to nothing as much as the hard-working industrious man for his full labour. This was not the case with single men; they were very scantily relieved, and hence it was their interest to marry early. Now that all relief is given in the workhouse to the able-bodied, the single and the married are treated alike. It is therefore no advantage to a man to marry early. There has been an advancing improvement in the character of the agricultural population; the labourers are more civil, and obliging and industrious, and much more anxious to retain their situations. The young are less frequent visitants of the public-houses. The children are very early put out into service by their parents; and as bastardy is no longer the high road to marriage, some check has been given to immorality; there have been fewer improvident marriages.

Mr. *Edward Sherwood*, Purley; Mr. *William Shackle*, Sulhamstead.

We have observed the same effects as Mr. Stone has spoken of, except that in our small parishes we do not see any difference in the attendance at the public-houses. The labourers are certainly more trustworthy generally.

No. 2.—Mr. *Hutchens*, Mapledurham.

I have heard Mr. Stone's statement, and I fully agree with everything he has said. The labourers are certainly much more industrious, and I think them more trustworthy; the workhouse has made many find means of supporting themselves who would not have done so otherwise. On the 31st of December last six young men came together to the Board of Guardians at Bradfield for relief, because, as they said, they could get no work; the two first were heard, and the decision of the Board upon their cases caused the other four to despair of their attempt, and they all made a precipitate retreat. I afterwards made a strict inquiry into their cases, and kept a good look-out to their future proceedings. The following is a correct account of them: William Young, age 17, left Mr. Allaway's service, considering his labour was worth more than he received for it; William Dodd, 21, left Mr. Allaway's service for the same cause; James Holmes, 17, was taken away by his friends from his employment at Mr. George Shackle's brick-kiln, in consequence of his spending his money, and becoming almost ragged through dissipation in Reading; Edward Morely, age 19, a hired servant, (to whom I could not discover), ran away from his place; William Bishop, age 19, was discharged from Mr. Simond's for drunkenness; Richard Case, age 20, left Mr. Stevens' employment, considering he was not sufficiently paid for his labour. These six individuals all found regular work within 10 days of their appearing at Bradfield, with the exception of Bishop, who so severely injured his knee getting over a bank when drunk on Christmas-day that he has been disabled since, and is at this time receiving relief from a benefit society; William Young returned to his old master, Mr. Allaway; William Dodd agreed with Mr. May, of Caversham, for constant work till Michaelmas; James Holmes has hired himself to Mr. Stevens; Edward Morely worked a short time for Mr. George Shackel, jun., and is now in my employment; and Richard Cave returned satisfied in his former situation with Mr. Stevens. When they were going to make application to the relieving officer, they remarked that they might get a few days work, but that they would go to the church where parish work would be found for them during the winter. This system has been invariably the practice in this parish for all young fellows who thought proper to throw themselves out of employment during the winter, and could earn sufficient during the summer months to support them the whole year. Another equally strong case is that of William Brazier, alias King, a bad character, belonging to this parish, now residing in Reading, a bricklayer's labourer; this man has been constantly upon the parish for relief during the winter for the last 14 years, which I have traced back by reference to the poor book, and which appears to have been every year since his marriage; the application has been under pretence of his being asthmatical, which the medical attendants could not contradict, although they expressed their suspicions. This year, at the commencement of winter, he boldly applied as before; an order was given him to the workhouse, but, as I anticipated, the order was not made use of, nor has he since made any application. I have often seen him this winter in Reading, looking well; and upon inquiry find that he has been employed the greater part of the winter, and in receipt of 12*s.* per week; and his girl, 13 years of age, can earn her livelihood by lace making.

No. 3.—Mr. *J. Frampton,* Bradfield.

I observe a marked difference in the condition of the labourers generally since the formation of this Union. The good labourers have been better off this year than the inferior (formerly it was otherwise); they have had constant work, and generally the preference in the work. The labourers of bad character have suffered; their employment has been uncertain, and they have been unwilling to accept relief in the workhouse. I consider that this will go far towards raising the character of the whole of our agricultural population. I find that the labourers are taking more pains with their work; they are becoming more skilful and industrious; they are very much more civil; we can now see a fault without an answer; formerly we could not. They are more anxious to procure employment, and particularly desirous to keep it when they have got it. It is not necessary now to look after the labourers; you can give your orders in the morning, and come home in the evening and find them executed.

No. 4.—Mr. *G. Smith,* Bradfield.

There has been a considerable change in the condition of the agricultural labourers generally since the Union was formed. Formerly the good and the inferior workmen were equally well off, and character was of little consequence to a man; now character is of great importance; the inferior men are worst off; they receive less wages, and are not in such constant employment. This must make them better labourers; the change has begun, and is constantly going on; many are now industrious good servants, who under the old system were of no use at all. There has not been one good man out of employment for more than a day or two this last year; formerly there were from 20 to 40 men almost always out of employment, except during hay time and harvest. I have managed farming business in this parish for the last 20 years. I never remember the labourers so civil and obliging as they have been the last year, since the formation of the Union; there is now a good understanding between master and man. The labourers are more trusty than they were; much more so; they do not require to be looked after so closely as they used to do. I find that when I give an order it is attended to. I think the new system has had the effect of making the labourer depend entirely on himself; and he will now seek work wherever it is to be had at best advantage. The labourers will in time be able to obtain better wages from their masters. I think the operation of the new system, as regards bastardy, has had considerable effect already; (I mean the practice in this Union of refusing all relief to bastards out of the workhouse, and neglecting to proceed against the fathers.) The parents are much more anxious to get their daughters into service early; and young people are not now to be seen idling about at the public-houses so much as they used to do. It is certainly felt to be a disgrace to come to the workhouse.

No. 5.—Mr. *Thomas Godrich,* Farmer and Tanner in the Parishes of Bradfield and Stanford.

Since the formation of the Union good labourers have been better off than the inferior; it never used to be so; they are now obtaining better prices than the inferior labourers, the best men have had constant work through the winter, the inferior workmen, and men of bad character have suffered, they have not obtained constant employment, and they have been unwilling to accept relief in the workhouse. The effect of this must be to raise the moral character of the whole of the agricultural population.

The labourers are certainly more industrious, and a very different race of people from what they were; altogether more obliging in manner, and very anxious to keep employment. The wages must rise; if we do not raise the wages we must loose all the good men, because under the new system they will go where they can make most advantageous terms. I asked a man, by name Hutchins, to work for me the other day; he had nothing to do. He said he could come, but wished to know how long the job was to last. I told him one or two days. He said then, "I sha'nt come; I shall go and find constant work somewhere."

I think the effect of the new system, as regards bastardy, will be to raise the moral feeling of the people. Young people are less frequently to be seen in the public-houses than they were, and many girls are now in service who would never have left home under the the old system; the parents are very much more anxious to obtain situations for their children.

It is considered a disgrace to go to the workhouse. There has been a wonderful alteration as regards improvident marriages, the poor are now much more careful not to marry till they have made some provision before-hand.

No. 6.—The Examination of Mr. *Newton,* of Pangbourn, in the Bradfield Union.

I have occupied a farm in Pangbourn the last ten years; I never remember the labourers in such a good moral state as they are now; they are more obliging, civil, industrious, and much more anxious to retain their situations. Since the introduction of the new system good labourers have been better off than the inferior ones; it did not use to be so, the idle man used to be nearly always on the parish, and received almost as much for doing nothing as the good men for working hard. This last winter the idle men have found some difficulty in getting constant employment, but the industrious good labourers have found no such difficulty; they have had constant employment all through the winter. The bad labourers are sure to improve under this system, because they will not accept relief in the

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workhouse. We used to have as many as 15 or 20 able men often out of employment in the winter before the Union; this year we have had none.

As the labourers have improved, the masters have certainly become more considerate; and I think that whenever a man shows a disposition to exert himself, the master endeavours to meet it. This is much more the case now than it was. The children are now sent out into service very early, and removed from temptation of idleness. There have been fewer improvident marriages lately than there used to be; young people do not like to marry without a provision, now that the workhouse is the only resource.

It is felt to be degrading to a person to accept relief in the workhouse; they will strain every nerve to keep out. A remarkable case occurred in our parish in proof of this: "The widow of a labourer, by name Goff, with four children, the eldest only nine years, was refused out-door relief; every one thought that she would be obliged to go into the house; she was a good character, and respected; she has been constantly employed, and by little assistance which she has received from her sister, she has contrived to support herself and her four children out of the house; these children must be brought up in industrious habits; the eldest has been put to school by a neighbour, and repays her schooling by her needle. Thus, the old saying is verified, "Where there's a will, there's always a way."

No. 7.—Mr. *G. Godfrey*, Basildon.

I have been used to farming all my life; I never remember the labourers under such good moral restraint as they are now, there is no grumbling between master and man as there used to be. The labourers are more industrious, more anxious to keep their places, and therefore more civil and obliging. This arises from the change of law; the labourer depends now entirely upon himself, the workhouse is his only resource; the good man has been better off than the inferior, this has made the inferior man look about him; the greatest change is in the improvement of our worst men; our best men are about the same as they were. The whole agricultural population is improving now; parents push out their children early to help maintain the family; before they were kept at home to add one more for the pay table.

The surplus labour has already disappeared, the men will go now where they can get best off, and as the labour becomes scarce in the market, which I think it will as the measure works on, price must rise. This makes the masters more careful to keep up a regular supply of men through the winter, as there is no parish supply to fall back upon, and if they did not provide for the summer in this way, they would be without hands.

It is my opinion that the practice of the Union as regards bastardy is very beneficial, it is not now the high road to marriage.

There is not now the same degrading exposure of females as there was formerly, when they were sworn to their children, which had a direct immoral tendency. As young women know that the workhouse is the only refuge, they take care of their characters, and get into service early, and endeavour to keep it. The operation of the same principles has tended to check improvident marriages; before they used sometimes to go to the overseer for a house, and work the next day after marriage.

Pauperism is felt to be degrading to every man who values his respectability, no respectable person would like to see his name on the church door.

No. 8.—The Examination of Mr. *Beall*, Clerk to Board of Guardians, and Governor of the Workhouse at Bradfield.

I was for five years one of the principal officers of the county gaol at Reading, and my wife was matron.

The Bradfield central workhouse was opened for the reception of inmates a few days before Christmas last; at this time orders had been passed by the Board of Guardians to forbid out-door relief to all able-bodied persons, whether men with families, or widows with families, or children.

I never had more than one able-bodied man at one time in the house, never more than two altogether; one named Smith came from the parish of Whitchurch, with wife and six children; this was not a case of necessity, as afterwards appeared; he had property, and when it was discovered, the Board of Guardians discharged him. He stated to me why he came in, it was that he might obtain his own terms from the Whitchurch farmers. As he said, "I and my family will cost them 15*s.* a week in the house; they won't leave me here long, not more than two or three days." He had tried to get others to join him in this plan; three other families had promised to join him; "But," to use his own words, "when it came to the push, they all died dunghill. If they had all been of his mind, they would have filled the house, and soon made the farmers glad to pay high wages to bring them out."

I am quite sure that nothing but the size of the house has saved us from a rush; this man is now working as a market gardener with his brother, at high wages, near London; he had the offer of good work before he came to the house, but the Guardians did not know it; he came in entirely to spite the parish. The other man was a bad character, whom no one would employ; he had been in gaol for some months, he is now in regular employment.

The morals and habits of the people are improving, and must continue to improve; I speak especially of the females; since the workhouse has been opened we have admitted 45 in all able-bodied females; they have been of much lower grade than any I have been used to see at the gaol; not only immoral, but excessively dirty and helpless; the inmates of the

gaol

gaol were generally useful, these could not do the most ordinary acts of household work, neither wash nor sew. As they have been improved in habit by the discipline of the workhouse, and taught to work, they have felt themselves raised in condition, and have expressed anxiety to obtain respectable situations, and retrieve their characters; some who have left the house have expressed themselves most thankful for this description of relief, saying it was the best lesson they had ever had. Sarah Nokes is a striking instance of this; she came in with a bastard child, and remained 16 weeks, and refused to leave the house to go home to field-work, but determined to earn a good character, and get into household work; she behaved remarkably well, and is now conducting herself well in service in a respectable situation, her mother taking care of the child. She thanked myself and wife when she left the house, and said that the workhouse was the best thing in the world for young people; it was a good thing that she had been there, that they all said so; they often talked of it.

This advantage has been felt by the employers as well as the employed; it used to be thought that a workhouse was the worst school for servants. I have now repeated applications for servants. I had three applications last week, through the good conduct of one, by name Woodley, who has lately left the house, and is now in service at Reading. There has been one remarkable instance of improvement in the case of a girl, Elizabeth Webb, who was sent into the workhouse as an idiot. She came in the 1st of February; she now works as well as any one in the house, washes regularly, and scours the rooms in her turn, nurses children, and, in short, does just as much work as any one else. I think after a time she will be able to go into service. We have now only 12 able women in the house, (the greatest number of able women we ever had at one time was 29); of the 12, six are single women with bastards; one single woman (who is deformed) and five widows; of the five widows four have bastards.

One widow, by name Simonds, of Goring parish, who had four children chargeable, left the house after being in three months; they are now supporting themselves by their united efforts; two elder boys in farm service having promised to bring home all their earnings if she would come out and take a house for them all.

No. 9.—Mr. *Allnutt*, Sutton Courtney, Abingdon Union.

Since the introduction of the new system of poor laws, a most beneficial change has taken place in our parish; before we had a heavy surplus population; this has nearly disappeared; the labourers will not accept relief in the workhouse, and will strain every nerve to keep out. There is a greater difference between the condition of the good and bad labourers than there used to be; the good men are always sure to be in work, the bad men are not so regularly employed; the single and married men are now upon the same footing, as far as relief is concerned, and therefore there is no inducement to marry early; before there was, because relief was given according to the number of the family. Generally the characters of the labourers are greatly improved; I think the masters too are more considerate to the men than they used to be; they will now take care to keep good labourers when they have got them. There is no measure I think which has done so much good in so short a time. We now see all the men employed, where formerly there were none. Our saving has been very great, but I consider the improvement of the people a greater general advantage than the reduction of the poor-rates.

No. 10.—Mr. *Richard Ellis*, Clerk to the Guardians, and Governor of the Abingdon Workhouse.

Since the establishment of the Union, great and successful efforts have been made by able-bodied labourers to support themselves, who formerly depended solely on the parish; their condition is greatly improved. There used to be in St. Helen's parish alone from 40 to 50 able-bodied paupers constantly receiving out-relief, on the plea that they could not find work; the week ending May 17, 1834, there were 60 able-bodied labourers receiving out-relief from this parish, and this continued till hay-making; several of these used to be always dependant on the parish (without exerting themselves) at a very low rate of relief, upon just a bare subsistence; now that this is withdrawn, and the house only is given, they are doing very well. One man used to receive only 4½*d.* per day, and he lived upon that without trying to help himself; since this has been withdrawn he is working regularly, and in receipt of good wages, and looks quite respectable; several only received 6*d.* per day, and have made the same exertions. There have never been more than six able-bodied paupers receiving relief in the workhouse at any one time. A great and most satisfactory change is perceptible in the conduct of the women and children, after they have been in the house a short time. However troublesome and disorderly their previous characters, they have been generally well-conducted in the workhouse. The children are always greatly improved, and the parents are so well aware of the advantages of the education for them, that there have been numberless applications to take in part of the family for the sake of the education; if the board were to allow relief of this sort, the house would be filled with children. The parents have always been very grateful for the care bestowed on them. The effect of the same discipline has been as striking in the cases of deranged persons. James Hart, a young man about 25 years of age, who is deranged, and used to be violent, from the regularity of the house is now managed without any forcible restraint, and works regularly at the sacking manufactory; and another, by name Franklin, aged

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aged 26, was violent till he came into the house; now, merely from the effect of the regular discipline, is perfectly tractable, and works regularly. Great reduction has been made in the relief to bastards, by offering the workhouse. On the 31st December 1835 there were 10 bastards receiving in-door relief, and 126 out. In January notice was given to all mothers, that out-door relief would be discontinued after the 1st of February; 110 received orders to the workhouse, only one came in. No new applications for relief have been made from bastards in this district of the Union the last half year.

No. 11.—Mr. *John Phillips*, Bicester.

I am a farmer occupying 400 acres of land in the Bicester Union, partly in Bicester Market, and partly in Bicester King's End; have been a farmer all my life. Since the formation of the Union it must appear to any person having anything to do with agriculture, that the condition of all classes of industrious labourers is improved; the better the labourer, the better is his condition; there is no incivility from them now, as there was before the Union, and they are all desirous of keeping a place of work. I think the idle labourer is worse off, as he cannot now run to the parish fund, but must work for his living. In consequence of the labourers wishing to keep their places, I have found that they have not only been latterly more industrious but more skilful, and they do not require half the trouble to look after them, and I have no doubt but that when the Union workhouse is completed so as to receive the whole of the paupers, there will be all through the Union a still greater improvement. Independently of the immense reduction of the poor-rates, I think few people, unless connected with the agricultural labourer, can at all conceive what a change there is for the better in the behaviour of the labourers to their masters; both are much more satisfied than they were under the old system; we very rarely see any of those early improvident matches amongst the lower classes, as formerly, for they know that if they cannot support themselves they must go to the workhouse, which they not only very much dislike, but begin to consider a disgrace.

No. 12.—*E. W. Jones*, Esq., Clerk to the Bicester Union.

I am vestry clerk of the township of Bicester Market End, and clerk to the Union, and also act as clerk to a bench of magistrates. Having been vestry clerk of the said township, I can state that almost all the idle came to make applications for relief at the vestry, and till within the last three years were most of them relieved by being employed. I think the petty tradesmen, as they called themselves, were the worst; shoemakers, tailors and masons. The evil was so great that no suitable work could be found for them, and they were sent with a wheelbarrow about six miles to fetch coal, in the hopes that they would look out for work, but it had no effect whatever. The workhouse of the township was at that time farmed by a person at so much per head; this the paupers of all sorts knew; and as long as they found it would cost more in the house than out of it, they continually applied for relief. I have known in the winter 50 or 60 able-bodied men standing in the streets idle, all of whom were receiving parochial relief, and a hundred or more boys who did scarcely anything, but were receiving their pay as they termed it. Since the formation of our Union, I do not think we have ever had at one time more than three able-bodied labourers on us, and not one boy except the friendless; if any apply, the workhouse is offered them, and very few indeed go in; and of those that do, none of them ever remain any time. I can mention one instance out of many: a tailor in the Union who had been on the parish invariably for the whole of the winter, was directed by the relieving officer to apply to the board: he did so at three successive meetings. At the two first he was refused relief, and at the third he was ordered into the workhouse. On the relieving officer giving him his order he was rather abusive at first, but said he would rather be tied to the top of the highest tree in the parish than go there, and he has never applied for relief since. This is one of many cases, for I can look round our own parish and see, I think, 20 similar cases; indeed many of them have told me that the times were altered, and that they must look out for work, for they never would go into the workhouse. I have had a good deal of conversation with the large farmers in this neighbourhood on the subject of the Union, and they all agree that it has worked very well indeed; for independently of the reduction of the rates, the good labourer is much better off, better satisfied, and much more trustworthy. The master is also much more satisfied, for he now meets with attention and civility, and has not half the trouble to look after his men to see his work done. Since the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act there has been in this township (the most populous in the Union) but one case of bastardy for the township to consider, and that was not proceeded in, for the child was no longer chargeable; and there is no doubt whatever but that it has proved a great check to those early and improvident marriages which were so frequent before the Act was passed.

No. 13.—Mr. *Thomas Forshall*, Malseyhampton, Cirencester Union.

We had some families which received relief on account of the number of their children before the Union. All this is now discontinued. Now they exert themselves, and by the wife and children's earnings receive more weekly than before. I have farmed in this parish for the last 10 years, and I find my labourers greatly improved since the Union. I have men working for me now who used to be always grumbling and insubordinate, and good for very little as labourers; now they are contented and trustworthy, and go whistling to their work as happy as birds. I am quite sure that the way to have good labourers is to keep

them

them entirely from the parish. I think the labourers now are better than ever I remember them for the last 10 years.

No. 14.—Mr. *Josh. Powell*, Parish of Staunton St. John's, Headington Union.

I have lived and occupied land in the parish of Staunton St. John's between 20 and 30 years. I find a considerable alteration for the better in the labourers since the Union. This year the inferior labourers have fared worse than the good men; formerly the worst men were best off. The labourers are better conducted now than I ever remember them; better satisfied, more industrious, more civil and obliging. John Buckingham, aged 45, with a family, an able man as any in the parish, before the Union was always on the parish, scarcely more than two months in the year off. He would not work, and he was as well off on the parish without working. He is now at work for me; he is very industrious and civil. I have had no reason to complain of him since he began to work for me. I think that many of the labourers are more skilful; they take more pains with their work, and do it better. I think that now there is no surplus labour in our parish.

Mr. Bullford, Studley-cum-Horton, Mr. Parrott, of Forrest-hill, concur in the above.

No. 15.—Mr. *Carpenter*, Over Norton, Chipping Norton Union.

I have occupied a farm in this parish for the last 19 years; till the establishment of the Union I think that the bad lazy labourer was as well off as the industrious man, for he generally received day-pay from the parish, and did very little work for it; since the Union, the best labourers have been best off; they have had constant places, the others have been obliged to shift for themselves, and they have managed to support themselves by their exertions, but with more difficulty than the best men.

The Union arrangements have improved the character of the labourers greatly; they are more civil, more attentive, they come in better time in the morning, they are more obedient, in short they are anxious now to keep their places, and before they did not care about it, for they could always fall back upon the parish.

Upon the whole, my men are more attentive now than ever I remember them. It is my opinion that the putting the names of paupers on the church door has had considerable effect, pauperism is now more a disgrace than ever it was.

The whole agricultural population must improve, for the parents are now anxious to make every child work as soon as possible for the common fund of the family; by this means they are brought up in habits of industry early, and the union between the several members of a family is strengthened. We always used to be very careful about the old and really distressed, but I think they are as well off now as ever they were.

No. 16.—*Frederick Herbert*, Esq., Clerk to the Guardians, Northleach Union.

I am convinced that the new system will prove beneficial in this Union, although, perhaps, no Union that has yet been formed was so little pauperised previously; its operation has effected a considerable saving to the parishes already, as my knowledge of the accounts enables me to bear witness; the refusing relief to the able-bodied on account of their large families evidently works well; for I have from time to time made inquiries of our relieving officers, and find that all the hands are fully employed at fair wages. We have not had an application from an able-bodied labourer for upwards of two months; this will speak for itself. The board have in many instances caused proceedings to be taken under the provisions of the 43d Eliz. to compel persons to contribute to the support of their pauper relations, and in consequence of the determination of the board to enforce this law, there have been voluntary offers (in more cases than one) of persons of sufficient ability to assist in the support of their parents (or children) by paying 1*s.*, or, in some cases 6*d.*, per week; the promises have been kept, and the former allowance from the board reduced accordingly. When this was first acted upon by the board, one case that came under notice was that of Richard Venfield, about 40 years of age, a married man, without family, earning 10*s.* or 12*s.* a week, who was summoned to contribute to the support of his aged mother (living in the same parish with her, then and for a length of time previously in the receipt of 2*s.* a week from the poor-rates; this worthy thought it very hard that he should be obliged to maintain his mother to save a whole parish by so doing. Venfield, however, withdrew his plea, and promised, with the assistance of a brother (well to do) to support his mother, and has accordingly acted. The giving relief in kind has had a very good effect; the paupers will receive money when they will refuse bread. Hannah Curtis was ordered two quartern loaves of bread, weekly, for her bastard child (before the formation of the Union she received 2 *s.* a week), she felt highly indignant at such an offer on the part of the board, and refused the bread, saying she could do as well without it as with it, and she has not been since heard of, I mean that she has not again applied for relief.

No. 17.—On the 22d of February 1836, the overseer of Bradfield told me that there were no good labourers out of work. He said, "I wanted a labourer the other day, and was obliged to borrow one from my neighbour, and last evening another neighbour called on me to inquire where he could get a man. I told him I could not help him, for I was obliged to borrow myself. He replied, "I only wish I could get one by borrowing!" At this same time last year there were 23 able-bodied labourers relieved in this parish, on the roads, doing nothing.

Appendix (B.)

No. 5.
Report of
T. Stevens, Esq.

No. 18.—Mary Harris came into the workhouse at Abingdon with her illegitimate child, aged five months, on the 15th February, and left on the 17th, and stated, on leaving, she should not have come in if she had known she would not have been allowed to swear the child.

No. 19.—On September the 9th, 1835, Sarah Allen, Sarah Lovegrove and Mary Allen, applied to the clerk of the Bradfield Union for advice, under the following circumstances: Mary Allen stated that her sister-in-law Sarah was about to be confined with a bastard child; that the person intended to be charged with being the father of the child had refused to marry her; that she did not want relief then from the parish; that till lately she had been at field work; that since that work had been over, she had taken in needle-work, and so maintained herself; that she wished to know if some steps would not be taken against the father. He told her that till she required relief herself the board could do nothing for her; that as soon as she applied for relief she would be ordered into the workhouse. Sarah Allen replied, "What! is'nt it necessary to swear to the father nor nothing." He said "No; now you must keep your own child; but if you are not able to do this, the board will give you relief in the workhouse." She said, "I know we must all go into the workhouse now if we have relief, but won't there be any notice taken of the father." He replied, "No;" upon this Sarah Lovegrove said, "Dear me, then it will be a great caution to young girls now how they behave."

No. 20.—W. Denley, of Great Risington, being a person in good circumstances, having married a woman with property, was applied to by the relieving officer of Stow-on-the-Wold Union, to support his aged and widowed mother, residing in the same parish. He answered he would not do anything towards her support, she might starve. The relieving officer replied, he must report him to the board of guardians as a person liable to maintain his parent; he answered, he should do nothing for her. The relieving officer made no provision for the old woman, but spoke to a daughter residing in the same parish, but not in circumstances to assist in her mother's support; she said she would take care her mother did not want for bread that week. When the relieving officer came in the week following, W. Denley, on being again applied to, made no further objection to maintaining his mother, and she has not been since chargeable to the Union.

No. 21.—*John Bolton*, of Lougborough, had for years allowed his father and mother, quite old, to be supported by the parish of Upper Slaughter; but soon after the formation of the Stow Union he voluntarily declared himself ready to support his mother without the receipt of anything from the parish (his father had lately died, and the mother was living with a daughter at Bibary, and received 2*s.* 6*d.* a week); this he acknowledged he did on account of the new poor laws.

No. 22.—At Bradfield, a labourer, by name *Hutchins*, used to make his wife support herself and the children out of a certain portion of his wages, which he gave her every week, and he kept himself upon the remainder. They lived together in the same house, and had two separate cupboards.

No. 23.—*Job Clack*, a boy of 11 or 12 years old, employed by J. B. Collet, farmer, was found weaker than other boys of his age, though a stout-looking lad; on inquiry, it appeared that his mother was too lazy to get out of bed in the morning to give him his breakfast before he went to his work; upon this the master gave him his breakfast, and found the boy fully equal to his work afterwards. Another brother at a subsequent period, supporting himself at his own expense, put up a cupboard, which he constantly kept locked, that his mother and sister might not rob him of his money and victuals.
This was in the parish of Upper Slaughter, Stow-on-the-Wold Union.

No. 24.—*John Smith*, a labourer, of Broadwell parish, having a wife and six children, applied to Mr. Hayward, the medical officer of the Stow district in the Stow Union, to attend his sick daughter, and added, "I'll manage to scrape up money enough to pay you, Sir." Mr. Hayward had on several previous occasions before the Union visited him in sickness as a parish pauper, and knowing his present indigent circumstances, reminded him that with his large family he would never be able to pay for medical attendance, and that it was not necessary he should, for if he procured a medical order, which was sure to be given him from the board of guardians, his daughter would have the same medicines and attendance without any charge. John would not incur the disgrace of pauperism for any consideration; he replied, "No, that I wont, I'll never be beholden to the parish again while I have health and strength; and if you wont come and see my daughter on my own account, I'll go to Mr. ——, and he will; I'll manage to pay for it."

No. 25.—A young widow, with one child, by name *Johnson*, belonging to Stow, resided with her father at Eyford, and received constant relief for herself and child from the parish of Stow; upon hearing that her name was to be affixed quarterly to the church door at Stow as a pauper receiving relief, she sent, by farmer Smith, of Eyford, "her respects to the gentlemen in the vestry at Stow, thanking them for the money she had received, and hoping they would make her a little present on her now declaring off the parish, saying, she could not bring herself to allow her name to be stuck up as a pauper on the church door every quarter."

No. 26.—*John Hodgkins*, of Stow, used to receive from the hamlet of Mangersbury 1*s.* 6*d.* per week, on account of his wife's bastard child; at the commencement of the Union this relief

relief was altered to two quartern loaves; he applied to the board of guardians for a continuance of the money relief; it was refused; upon which he declined receiving any further relief at all, saying, he had too much of the spirit of an Englishman for that.

Supplement (B.)

COPIES of some of the TESTIMONIALS received as to the Efficiency of the Medical Relief in the *Newbury* Union, now administered under one Medical Officer.

No. 1.—In reply to your inquiry, "Whether I consider the medical department of the Newbury Union efficiently performed by one individual?" I beg to say, that from general observation during the last year, I am a convert to that opinion.
Crookham, 12 May. I am, &c. *R. Tull.*

No. 2.—When I heard there was to be only one medical attendant for the numerous parishes in the Union, I thought it impossible he could do justice to the cause; but experience has proved the contrary; and I now have pleasure in stating, that during the last year Mr. Robinson has promptly attended every case when his presence was required, and his attendance has been most diligent and unremitted. As minister of the parishes of Enbourne and Hamstead Marshall, containing a population of nearly 800 persons, I bear testimony to the satisfaction he has given to the officers of the said parishes, the poor people, as well as myself. I am, &c. *C. T. Johnson.*
Enbourne, 11 May 1836.

No. 3.—I have reason to think most highly of the skill and attention of Mr. Robinson, as far as I have had the opportunity of observation, as curate of the parish of Boxford.
I know the same to be the opinion of the Rev. John Wells, the rector, who is at present absent from home. I am, &c. *George Wells.*
Woodspeen, 11 May 1836.

No. 4.—I am happy to be able to assure you, that the testimony which is borne by the poor of this district to the attention of Mr. Robinson, surgeon of this Union, is generally most satisfactory; and I have every reason to believe that he is desirous of fulfilling, kindly and conscientiously, the important duties which have devolved upon him.
Speenhamland, 11 May. I am, &c. *John A. D. Meekin*, Curate.

No. 5.—Mr. Hawkins, one of our guardians, has just called upon me to ask how Mr. Robinson, our medical man, attends to the poor, and he begs me to send my opinion to you. As far as I have seen him, and I have seen a great many cases where he has attended, he has been most kind and attentive, and I do not think that he could have performed his duty more conscientiously. Mr. Spencer, the curate of Oare, who lives with me, begs to join me in this testimony. Believe me, &c. *E. P. Vaughan.*
Speen, near Newbury, 12 May.

No. 6.—I am of opinion that Mr. Robinson, as the medical officer, has been very kind and attentive to the poor of this parish, and I find the poor highly satisfied with him, and very grateful for his attendance. *J. Birchall*, Curate, Officiating Minister.
Newbury, 10 May 1836.

No. 7.—I was overseer for the parish of Shaw-cum-Donnington during the last year, and have never heard any complaint against the medical officer of the Union either on the part of the parish or the poor, but on the contrary, the poor have been well satisfied with his attention. *J. Hazell*, late Overseer.

No. 8.—I was guardian for the parish of Welford for the last year, *and have been churchwarden for upwards of* 30 *years, and have never known the poor better attended or better satisfied with any medical man than Mr. Robinson*, and gladly bear my testimony to his skill and attention. Yours, &c. *James Tanner.*
Welford, 11 April 1836.

No. 9.—As I have been requested to give my opinion respecting Mr. Robinson, the medical man for the Newbury Union, I have no hesitation in saying that, as far as I have been able to judge, I consider him very efficient, and he has paid the greatest attention to the poor. I have, &c. *Edm. Arbuthnot*, J. P. for the County of Hants.
Newtown House, 11 May.

No. 10.—Mr. Blundell, the churchwarden of Speen, has had occasion to inquire into the medical attendance on the poor of this parish, and the general feeling of the paupers in regard to the same, during the superintendance of Mr. Robinson, and is happy to say that it appears to him to be perfectly satisfactory.
Speen-hill, 12 May 1836.

No. 11.—I am requested by Mr. Hawkins, of Speen, to acquaint you if I had heard or known of any neglect in Mr. Robinson's attendance on the paupers in the parish of which I am a guardian. I beg to say, although I have taken some little trouble to inquire among the poor, I have not heard of an instance that reflects want of skill or negligence on the said gentleman; he seems to have given general satisfaction among the poor.
Harts-hill Farm, 12 May 1836. I am, &c. *John Adnams.*

Appendix (B.)
No. 5.
Report of
T. Stevens, Esq.

No. 12.—I, Edward William Gray, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the borough of Newbury, and one of the elected guardians of the parish of Newbury, do hereby declare that I have heard of many charges of neglect being brought against Mr. Robinson, the medical officer of the Newbury Union, but notwithstanding such charges have been brought forward with the greatest degree of probability, yet it has never been brought home that any such charge has been established than as a mere assertion and declaration, therefore no reliance can in any such case be placed on charges founded on such loose and unsatisfactory testimony. *E. W. Gray.*

Newbury, 12 May 1836.

No. 13.—Having served the office of guardian at the formation of the Newbury Union, and been in constant attendance at the weekly meetings of the board during the year past, I feel great pleasure in bearing testimony to the uniform assiduity, skill and punctuality evinced by the surgeon to the Union, Richard Rodd Robinson, esq., in his attendance on the paupers of the Union, and to his manly and straightforward conduct in meeting the charges which from time to time have been so falsely and industriously got up against him, to injure him in his character and prospects as a medical practitioner with the board of guardians and the Poor Law Commissioners. *George Dibley*, Solicitor.

Newbury, 12 May 1836.

All the other 24 testimonials are equally strong in expressions of satisfaction at Mr. Robinson's attendance on the poor.

Thomas Stevens.

EXAMINATIONS as to the Conduct of Mr. *Burrow*, Medical Officer of the *Shipston-on-Stour* Union.

No. 14.—The Rev. —— *Townsend*, Honington.

I have great reason to be satisfied with the attendance of Mr. Burrow on the poor of this parish. When first he began, the small pox was raging, and his attendance was unremitted; and they speak in the strongest terms of his kindness.

No. 15.—The Rev. *Gilbert Malcolm*, Toddenham.

Up to this time Mr. Burrow has given great satisfaction in the parish of Toddenham; his attendance has been very regular, and the poor like him.

No. 16.—Mr. *William Badger* and Mr. *Thomas Gibbs*, Guardians, Tredington.

Mr. Burrow, the medical officer of the district, has given good satisfaction to the poor. We have no doubt *that the medical relief now is more efficient than ever it used to be*; we judge from hearing no complaints now; there used to be complaints formerly.

No. 17.—Mr. *Thomas Walton*, Guardian of Pillerton Priors.

I have not had any opportunity of seeing Mr. Burrow's attendance in the parish of which I am guardian, as we have had no case requiring medical relief; but I have heard his attention in other parishes very highly spoken of. I believe the poor are generally satisfied with him.

No. 18.—Mr. *Clark*, Guardian of Battsford.

I have heard every one speak highly of Mr. Burrow's attendance on the poor as medical officer of this Union. I never heard the least complaint against him.

No. 19.—Mr. *Hitchcock*, Guardian of Whichford.

I have heard no complaint whatever against Mr. Burrow, the medical officer of this Union; on the contrary, I have heard every one with whom he has had to do, speak highly of him; the poor appear to be very well satisfied with him.

No. 20.—Mr. *Eden*, Guardian of Admington.

I have heard every person speak with satisfaction of Mr. Burrow's attendance on the poor of this Union. I do not think that the extent of his district has at all interfered with his attending properly on the poor; the larger contract appears to insure to the poor the first attention of the medical man; in small districts private patients take the lead.

No. 21.—Mr. *Busby*, Moreton.

I was of opinion, when first the large medical contract was proposed in this Union, that no one person could do the work efficiently; but I believe that hitherto Mr. Burrow has given satisfaction. He is very diligent in his attendance; I have heard no complaint against him; indeed, all the reports I have heard have been in his favour.

No. 22.—

Appendix (B.)

No 5.
Report of
T. Stevens, Esq.

No. 22.—Mr. *Cooper*, Guardian of Stourton.

I was of opinion that one medical officer could not efficiently attend to three districts of this Union; I have rather changed my opinion on this subject now. I have heard no complaint whatever against Mr. Burrow; and I therefore conclude that he has done his work well. The largest extent of contract has the effect of securing to the poor the medical officer's first attention. No mere adventurer could stand the first expenses of undertaking an extensive medical contract. I am satisfied with the Union altogether; it works very well, and gives better satisfaction than I expected. The great advantage is the improvement of our labourers; it must make them more independent, and therefore better servants; *the old people are certainly better looked after, no doubt about that,* as to medical attendance and general relief also.

No. 23.—Mr. *Tuns*, of Cherrington.

I was of opinion, when it was proposed to accept the tender of one medical officer for three districts, that it was impossible for him to do the work effectually; hitherto, I believe, Mr. Burrow has given good attendance to the poor of this Union, for I have heard no complaints against him. The large contract certainly makes the poor the first object of the medical man.

No. 24.—Mr. *Pikkering*, Blockley, Guardian.

I have inquired respecting Mr. Burrow's attendance on the poor of our parish, and I find that he gives great general satisfaction; his attendance is very regular. If there was any ground of complaint, we should soon hear of it. I think the large district makes it necessary for the officer to attend punctually, because the work could not be done at all without a system. There have been complaints against the officer of the small district, which shows that we should soon hear of it, if there was any ground of complaint.

No. 25.—Mr. *Allen*, Burmington, Guardian.

I have heard no complaint whatever against the medical officer, Mr. Burrow, in my own or any of the neighbouring villages; I should be sure to hear of it fast enough, if there was any neglect. I believe that any medical man who holds an extensive contract must do the work regularly, or he could not do it at all; system is absolutely necessary with a great extent.

No. 26.—*Stephen Garrett*, Relieving Officer, Shipston District.

I have heard the poor people generally speak in strong terms of their satisfaction at the attendance of Mr. Burrow; they say that Mr. Burrow is exceedingly kind to them; I believe he is very regular in his attendance.

No. 27.—*G. Holland*, Relieving Officer, District No. 4.

I often see Mr. Burrow in my visits among the poor; he gives very great satisfaction; they all speak very highly of him; they say they were never so well attended before; he is very regular in the performance of his duties.

No. 28.—*George Figures*, Relieving Officer, Moreton District.

Mr. Burrow, the medical officer, attends my district; he seems to give great satisfaction in every direction. I see him most days, and I generally see him at Moreton on a Thursday. He is very regular in his attendance; the poor express themselves very grateful for his attention.

— No. 6. —

REPORT on the Counties of *Bedford*, *Buckingham*, and part of *Hertford* and *Huntingdon*, by *Daniell Goodson Adey*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Gentlemen, 5 July 1836.

No. 6.
Report of
D. Goodson Adey,
Esq.

AGREEABLY to your instructions that I should report to you the general operation of the new poor law, and more particularly the condition of the labouring classes, so far as they are affected by it as compared with the old mode of administering the poor rates, I have the honour in the first place to remind you, that the district which I have superintended comprises the county of Bucks (with the exception of the Eton Union), the whole of Bedfordshire, and the greater part of Hertfordshire and Huntingdonshire, and contains 23 Unions of various sizes, from Wycombe Union, with a population of 33,000, to Welwyn Union of only 2,000; the average of these 23 Unions being 18,000 population and 21 parishes. Three of these Unions (in the county of Huntingdon) not having been long enough in operation to furnish any materials to observe upon, the illustrations of this report are obtained entirely from the other three counties.

District in Union.

 Although

Comparative operation of Unions.

Although all the Unions do not as yet proceed on a uniform system; the difference of occupation in different towns or rural districts; the previous course pursued in various parishes; the diversity of views taken by different guardians from their different positions in life; the comparative activity and information of the officers, and various other reasons operating to prevent the system of each Union from being precisely similar. Yet have the results in all cases been most satisfactory, and all the Unions are working so diligently and steadily, that I feel no doubt that when the time shall have arrived to allow the enforcement of more complete uniformity in their proceedings and equal economy in their expenses, all will progress alike, and a correct and well-contrived method actuating all, they will advance in a parallel of justice to the labourer and economy to the rate-payer.

Incompleteness of workhouse arrangements.

As yet, therefore, not only from the above causes, but from the defective state of the main machinery, viz. the workhouse accommodation, the results of the new system can only be partially shown in my district.

Out of the 20 Unions alluded to, three only, and those the smallest, had originally sufficient workhouse accommodation, 10 had none that was useful, and their new houses were either not in a state to be entered on before Lady-day (the time the accounts are made up), or are not yet finished, and in the remaining seven so much alteration was required to render the parochial houses at all efficient (and in general they are still very defective), that much time was necessarily lost.

Thus the principle of the new Act has nowhere had free scope; but under all these difficulties its operation, even as far as it has gone, has been equally gratifying and surprising.

Pecuniary and moral results of the new system.

The original and great argument of the promoters of the present system was, that the old mode of administering the poor-rates was a constantly-increasing injury, as well to the rate-receivers as to the rate-payers, and that by the adoption of a different mode the latter would be relieved from the pressure which pauperism threw upon them, and the labouring classes would be raised from the degraded station and state of mind into which the evils of the old system had cast them.

It is in these two points of view that the effects of the Unions chiefly present themselves, and they are so connected with each other that though my noticing the pecuniary effect may appear almost superfluous, as it is already before you in the official returns, yet it is hardly possible to elucidate the moral result without reference to the pecuniary one; I shall advert to this, however, in the most concise manner.

Pecuniary savings.

That the practical working of the new mode of administering the poor-rates has been such as to realize a pecuniary saving equal to the most sanguine expectations, is fully proved by the returns in your possession, returns made in a form and authenticated in a mode that places them beyond refutation.

Those returns for the last six months (ending at Lady-day) show that in the Unions in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, the average diminution of the demand on the rate-payer exceeds 50 per cent., while in many Unions and parishes it is far beyond that rate.

Circumstances under which the change has been effected.

I am aware it will be said, this saving is more apparent than real; that sums spent on the parochial roads, which formerly appeared in the poor-book, are now carried to the surveyor's book; that other items are transferred to the church-rate, &c.; that the winter has been extremely favourable, and that the low price of bread has enabled the guardians to contract for this main article of relief in kind at a price less than usual, and that these and other favourable circumstances are not likely to occur again.

Not only admitting all this, but confidently asserting that till a proper court of audit of all parochial accounts is established, that the church and road-rate will be the cloaks for a great deal of illegal as well as wasteful expenditure, formerly covered by the poor's rate, still I contend and I hope shall prove that, though in particular localities these circumstances may operate, yet still that as they are mostly local, they can have no serious effect on the general result, especially when it is recollected that such result has been produced under difficulties fast subsiding, and in the most expensive quarters of the year.

Anticipated reaction.

Again, it is argued that great reaction will ensue. That reaction may take place in particular districts is far from improbable; but that any permanent and general reaction can ensue to one-tenth the extent of the benefit already derived, so long as a Central Board has the means of making comparative estimates of the results of different modes of proceedings, and the power of thus effectually stimulating those in the rear rank to endeavour to reach the front, appears to me to be impossible.

Instead of reaction, every day's experience renders me more confident, that a perseverance in the cautious and correct system on which the Unions have been formed and carried on, coupled with a strict economy, will still more reduce parochial taxation; and when from the table hereafter introduced it appears that the St. Alban's and Watford Unions, with a pressure on them of less than half that on the Unions of Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire, and consequently with less than half the power of reduction, have nearly kept pace with those Unions, I think I am not anticipating too much, nor am unreasonable in expecting that the point to which the St. Alban's and Watford Unions have attained in less than one year, the other Unions alluded to may reach at an early period, and that the saving, instead of 50 will be nearer 75 per cent.

Future progress.

To illustrate and support this anticipation, I beg to refer to the following comparative table, framed from the returns in your possession, of eight parishes and four Unions in Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire, with four parishes and two Unions in Hertfordshire.

UNIONS.	Parishes therein.	Population, 1831.	Average Annual Expenditure of the Three Years preceding the Union.	Saving per Cent. on Average Expenditure, as shown by the Boards' Returns.	Rate levied on each head of Population before the Union.	Rate on each head of Population still levied.	Saving to each head of Population by the Union.	Reduction anticipated in Bucks and Bedfordshire to equalize those Counties with Herts.
BEDFORD:			£.					
Ampthill - -	- - -	14,357	14,602	59	21/10	9/10	12/	4/10
	Marston - -	1,007	2,082	66	41/4	14/1	27/3	10/5
	Westoning -	627	1,106	61	35/3	13/6	21/9	9/
Bedford without the Borough - -	- - -	21,074	22,942	58	21/9	9/	12/9	4/6
	Wotton - -	1,051	2,049	62	39/	15/	24/1	10/6
	Bletsoe - -	410	642	74	31/3	9/	22/3	4/
BUCKINGHAM:								
Winslow - -	- - -	7,847	11,291	63	28/10	10/7	18/3	6/1
	Stewkeley -	1,053	1,989	69	37/9	11/8	26/1	7/2
	Swanborne -	668	1,104	67	33/	11/10	22/2	6/8
Aylesbury - -	- - -	21,101	25,221	49	23/10	12/1	11/9	7/7
	Haddenham -	1,484	2,299	51	31/	15/2	15/10	11/4
	Stone - -	773	1,113	55	29/3	11/5	17/10	6/11
HERTFORD;								
St. Alban's - -	- - -	15,833	8,488	58	11/2	4/6	6/8	
	Wheathampstead	1,666	776	49	9/4	4/10	4/6	
	Harpenden -	1,972	837	55	8/6	3/10	4/8	
Watford - -	- - -	15,379	8,473	53	11/2	5/	6/2	
	Rickmansworth	4,574	2,232	45	9/8	5/3	4/5	
	Abbotslangley -	1,980	1,036	60	10/1	3/10	6/3	

An inspection of this table will show not only the amount of the saving per cent (which in itself is no proof of good or bad management), but also the original pressure on the population as compared with the present, from which only can a correct judgment be formed of what may still be effected to bring the most pauperised Unions to an equality with the Unions the least so.

Thus we find by the table, that while a saving of 63 per cent. has been made in Winslow Union, and 58 only at St. Alban's Union, that Winslow, with all its apparent greater saving, still remains far more heavily rated than St. Alban's; that the one still levies a tax of 10*s.* 7*d.* a head on its population; the other of 4*s.* 6*d.* only, and its apparent reduction of 6*s.* 8*d.* is actually more than the reduction of 18*s.* 3*d.* at Winslow, because a rate of 10*s.* 7*d.* a head is still raised there, nearly equal to that at St. Alban's before its reduction of 58 per cent.

There is also another point of view in which it is satisfactory to look at this table, (viz.) that it seems to have been as easy to reduce pauperism where it was already on a comparatively low scale, as where it was on a high one.

On comparing the four Unions in Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire with the two Unions in Hertfordshire, it will be seen, that though the original pressure in the Unions of the latter county was less than half of that in the two former, yet they have nearly kept pace in the reduction per cent., while, as an additional proof, the four parishes in the Hertfordshire Unions are those that actually had the least pressure on them at the time of the Union, and were, therefore, apprehensive they would rather be injured than improved by it. Yet have they been nearly equally benefited with the eight parishes in the Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire Unions, which are those having actually the highest pressure.

Again, it will be said that this great reduction in the Herts Unions has been obtained by grinding and oppressing the paupers, including the aged and infirm. I confidently deny the assertion; I have never seen harshness either at the board of guardians of the Hertfordshire Unions or at those of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire; and yet the result is not in proportion to the original pressure, but nearly the same; what therefore is the chief cause? Can it be any other than that the effect of the Unions is to procure the labourer natural instead of artificial employment?

As an instance, I may state that the Unions of Ampthill and Bedford contain a population of 38,000; the Unions of St. Alban's, Watford and Barnet nearly the same.

At Christmas 1835, the able-bodied labourers receiving relief were in number as follows:

Ampthill, Bedford - - - - - -	1,265
St. Alban's, Watford, Barnet - - - -	166

A conclusive reason why the rates in one county were double what they were in the adjoining one; and now that the market for labour is open and employment is nearly equal in both counties, what reason is there that 9*s.* and 9*s.* 10*d.* should continue to be paid at Ampthill and Bedford, 10*s.* 7*d.* and 12*s.* 1*d.* at Aylesbury and Winslow, and not half the sums at St. Alban's and Watford? It is on these data, founded on the unerring result of figures, that I confidently anticipate that as Bedford and Bucks are still 25 per cent. behind Hertfordshire, a further saving in those counties will speedily be effected.

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Even should the opponents of the new system be right in their expectations, that reaction will ensue; yet still what an immense advantage will remain by the operation of the new system! If during the worst times of pauper pressure, the Hertfordshire parishes had but half the amount of parochial taxation which oppressed those of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, what apprehension need there be, that the latter, under any reaction, can be forced back to an amount even equal to the late pressure in Hertfordshire? That one parish should pay at the rate of 41 *s.*, as Marston, while another should only pay at the rate of 8*s.* 6*d.*, as Harpenden, can only result from the bad system followed in one parish and the good one adopted in the other. Both are rural parishes. There existed no causes why Marston might not and may not be reduced to the same scale of parochial levy as Harpenden. There is no reason why able-bodied paupers should pervade Buckinghamshire more than Hertfordshire, or the rates be perverted to improper purposes in one county more than another; and on the same principle, no sound reason can be given why parochial taxation should not be as low in the one county as in the other, provided the same system be perseveringly and justly pursued.

The other chief point of view in which the subject presents itself, viz. the improvement in the general condition and habits of the labouring classes, is from its nature incapable of equal proof with the pecuniary results: but if full and general employment of all who are able to work, proved by the almost complete cessation of applications for relief from this class of paupers (isolated cases only appearing during the last winter on the books of the several Unions), if indolence changed to activity, rudeness to civility, if the concurrent testimony of the different boards of guardians to this alteration is a proof of improvement in the labourer, if the knowledge that the great bulk of the labouring class have been regularly employed throughout the winter, and in their own neighbourhood, is a proof that it was the system that created this kind of pauperism, then I hesitate not to assert that the alteration of the system has effected immense good: for these are unquestionable facts throughout the district under my superintendence.

The truth seems to be, that the formation of the Unions has created employment.

The employers of labour, some no longer able to obtain it under price through the parish; others, no longer jealous that they should pay an undue proportion towards pauper support, others, no longer apprehensive that their men could evade their duties with impunity, not only have kept such of them whose steadiness and industry was satisfactory, in constant instead of temporary employ, but having more funds to lay out in labour, and finding other labourers, formerly of indifferent character, now showing equal inclination to proper conduct, have employed and retained them also.

While the labourer, aroused in an effectual manner from his former state of torpid dependence in a degree inconceivable to those who have not the opportunity of watching the progress of the change, seeing on the one hand a punishment for idleness, on the other a reward for industry, his supposed rights mere visions, his wrongs fanciful, has thrown off his idle habits and become steady, respectful and industrious. Thus as extremes meet, so it appears that the very inertness of a life of indolence produces a refuge in industry. The exertion of the body seems to have brought with it a corresponding exertion of the mind; while the very effort that has thrown off bodily inactivity appears to have called into being, or roused to action, a principle of moral control, which had so long laid dormant as hardly to be known to exist. Thus those who have sought labour have found it. The knots of idle and boon companions at the beer-shop or the village green have gradually lessened till wholly divided; and as, fortunately, example is sometimes as active for good as it is for evil, so the worst conditioned at last have sought that work at a distance which they could not obtain at home, when they found it impossible otherwise to avoid the more irksome restrictions the law and their own necessities imposed on them. Thus aroused to work, it followed that permanent employ became also desirable; to obtain this, punctuality in their hours, diligence in their labour, civility to their employers, and regularity in their conduct was necessary; these again work greatly in favour of moral improvement. Constant employment begets good feeling between master and man. The servant who has ploughed and cropped the field, knowing he shall reap it, becomes interested in its produce, and rejoices as well as his master in the harvest he has had a hand in realizing; and this feeling between master and servant continues to increase from year to year to their mutual benefit, a benefit unfelt whilst temporary or compulsory labourers wrought for discontented masters.

Thus the habits of the labourer must necessarily improve; his industry and independence produces content; content produces good conduct, and good conduct secures employment. I trust, too, the system will tend to the return to the custom of boarding a certain number (generally the younger portion) of the farm servants in the houses, a custom admirable in itself, and the cessation of which has, I believe, been one of the chief causes of the demoralization of the labourer. What a contrast is presented in the life of the labourer used from childhood to the temptation and soddening effects of the beer-shop or lodging-house, and the excitement of a poaching party, with the same character brought up from early youth under the vigilant eye of his master, becoming habitually industrious, and when in advanced life his children claim his attention, instead of making their numbers and their idleness claims for a parochial shilling, instructing them "the way they should go," for his own as well as their sakes.

That the market for labour has been opened in a most wonderful way by the operation of the new system, is no longer doubted by those who reside where it has been in operation.

It will be recollected that in some of the first reports I had the honour of sending to the Board on the state of the rural population, I contended that there was no real surplus of labour except in particular spots, and I particularly mentioned what had been artificially created

created at Woburn. It is only a week since I met one of the Duke of Bedford's agents, and on inquiring how their Union went on, "Why," says he, "instead of having too many labourers, we now have not enough; and though the hay crops are far from heavy, have been obliged to employ Irish, and what is most extraordinary, we know few, if any, labourers have left the neighbourhood, but are all employed in it; and there is more than one farmer who, from being disliked by the men, has been unable to obtain workmen at all."

That this ill-drawn picture of the moral effect of the new system is gradually becoming evident to others as well as myself, the following extracts from communications from various individuals in various stations of life, will best illustrate.

1. *General Improvement.*—Mr. *Sullivan*, the chairman of the Hitchin Union, in a letter to me, says, "As to the general effect of the new poor law in this Union, I should say that it is slowly operating the beneficial changes which were expected from it; that it is forcing the idle to become industrious, and the careless to become attentive; that it is teaching all labourers to look to their own exertions for their subsistence and their comforts, which eventually (though I fear *longo post intervallo*) must induce habits of prudence; that it is teaching the female part of our population the value of chastity, and that it is laying the foundation of better times for the farmer, by improving the character of his labourers, and by reducing the rates he is called upon to pay; but when I say this, it should be borne in mind that the system has been very recently introduced among us, and that no body of facts has been elicited as yet, which can authorize a decided opinion as to its results. It is impossible yet to determine how far the changes concurrent with the Act, are in truth to be attributed to it, and how far to other causes."

On the same subject, Mr. *Wilson*, the relieving-officer of the Watford Union, writes me as follows:

The amount of poor's rates, and the extent of pauperism within the parishes comprising the Watford Union, having been comparatively limited (prior to the formation of the Union) it could not be expected that the introduction of the new system would effect any such great or surprising change, either in the amount of expenditure or in the moral condition of the poor, as in those districts where the rates had risen to an enormous amount, and the poor were consequently sunk deeply in moral degradation; yet the beneficial effects of the Poor Law Amendment Act are sufficiently apparent, both in the reduction of the burthens of the rate-payers, and in the improvement of the condition of the labouring poor, to ensure its complete success, and to secure for it the approbation of all parties.

Those persons who, twelve months ago, were averse to their parishes being joined in the Union, now readily admit that the system is a decided improvement, and that there is no cause to regret the change. And those individual guardians who were most prejudiced against the change, are now become the most strenuous supporters of the present mode of administering relief. The beneficial effects of the Poor Law Act may be readily discovered in the disposition of the labourers to retain regular employment, and in their manners and habits generally.

It is very evident that some cause must have operated powerfully upon them in inducing them to retain regular employment, and I draw such opinion from the circumstance of the farmers in this Union being able to retain their usual labourers without an increase of the usual and fair rate of wages, notwithstanding that the Birmingham Railroad (which passes through the centre of the Union) has caused a vast demand for labour. I attribute this desire of retaining regular work in preference to temporary employment at higher wages, to the knowledge the men now have that they must in future depend upon their own resources, or exchange their independent station for that of an entire pauper.

I have subjoined the testimony of a few individual witnesses, in illustration of the above statement; and although I have not been able to furnish cases of such extraordinary change and improvement as might be found in districts more deeply pauperized, I feel myself fully justified in the opinion that when the whole of the measures under the Poor Law Amendment Act come to be matured, it will be found that the new system will give permanent relief to the rate-payers, by a large reduction in the amount of poor-rates, and will be effectual in rescuing the labouring population from their state of bondage under the old system; thus rendering the poor laws a means of providing for the old, impotent and unavoidably distressed poor, and an instrument for the correction of the idle and profligate pauper, without endangering the well-being and good condition of the able-bodied and industrious.

Mr. *John Guy*, of Bushey, farmer, states: I am of opinion that the operation of the new Poor Law Act has decidedly improved the labourers, both in their disposition to seek and retain employment, and in their behaviour to their masters. They seem now to feel that they must depend upon themselves, which was not the case formerly.

Mr. *Joseph Slaughter*, of Aldenham, farmer, states: I think the labouring men are more desirous of pleasing their masters and keeping their places than formerly, and that many men who work upon the railroad would not work at all, if relief or work could be procured from the parishes, as before the passing of the new poor law.

Mr. *William Swannell*, of Mill End, near Rickmersworth, farmer, states: I am in the habit of employing various labourers; I live in a village, most of the inhabitants of which are of the lower class. I think the poor seem more desirous of independent employment than formerly, and I hear no conversation amongst them as to their claims upon the parish, which used formerly to be a frequent subject of discussion with them.

In a conversation with Mr. *James Males*, of Sarratt, farmer, on May 14, 1836, he stated: The labouring men are more industrious than they used to be before the new poor law came into operation. I know when they were out of work formerly, they would avoid applying to

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a farmer if they thought he wanted hands; but now, if a place happen to be vacant, they will try which can be first in seeking it.

Mr. *William Plaistowe*, states: I am secretary of the Serratt, King's Langley and Rickmersworth Friendly Society. During the last six months there has been a considerable increase in the number of members; which increase I think is to be attributed in a great measure to the influence of the Poor Law Act; several applicants having remarked that the chances being now diminished of getting out-door relief from the parish in case of illness, it was time to enter a benefit club.

Mr. *Joseph Morgan*, states: I am clerk to the Bushey Benefit Society. I find that within the last year there has been a considerable increase in the number of members. Young men are more anxious to enter since the commencement of the new Poor Law Act, as they consider it now useless to depend upon the parish.

Mr. *Pearce*, the Chairman of the Woburn Union, writes me as follows:

"You ask me whether any good effects have been produced by the application of the new poor law in this district; they are obvious to the commonest observer: the benefit to the rate-payer in the Woburn Union is upwards of 50*l.* per cent., and to the labouring classes, recovery of character, improved condition, and a better market for labour.

"The applications to the Board for relief have diminished from 70 to about six or seven in the week.

"The labourers in the Union are generally in full employment, which they now procure for themselves, instead of running to the overseer to provide it, or relieve them. Their earnings are better applied, and my own observation is confirmed by others, that they use greater exertion in the work appointed them; are better conducted towards their employers, and are more provident in their habits. One marked instance of it I must notice, their desire and readiness to join a medical association lately formed in this district.

"Our workhouse at Woburn, which was built to contain 300 paupers, at present has only 41 in it, and I really think that number will shortly be reduced.

"We have had but three bastardy cases brought before the board during the past year, and only in one of them did the mother accept the workhouse with her infant (the only relief offered in such cases); she remained about three weeks, and then migrated with the child into the manufacturing districts. In this respect the new poor law has certainly produced a wonderful change for the better.

"I have conversed with many persons in different grades, respecting the operation of the Act, most of whom were greatly prepossessed against it in the outset, but are now convinced of the good results to the community, and speak highly in its favour.

"Regarding it as a means of relief to the agricultural interest, as respects the tenantry, it is important beyond anything that could have been done for it, either by the Legislature or landlord. I speak only of those districts where pauperism had nearly crushed the tenantry, and swamped the landlord, and to such a state of things was this neighbourhood fast hastening before the new poor law passed."

Testimonials from other parts of Bedfordshire to the same effect are not wanting.

At the audit of the Bedford Union, Mr. *Robinson*, an extensive farmer at Bletsoe, answered my inquiries in the following language: "The new law, Sir? The effect is wonderful; it has already saved me two-thirds of my rates; and as to the men, they are altered indeed. I now employ many more than I did, not less than 60, and I find their manners are equally improved with their mode of working. Till the new Bill I never dared keep any men in the house, now I have six, and they are my best workmen; and I have a right to expect my profits will increase in proportion; indeed, I know they will."

Mr. *Gell*, of Sharnbrook, Mr. *Hart*, of Souldrop, both also extensive farmers, were present at this conversation, and concurred with Mr. Robinson; and Mr. *Whitehead*, another extensive farmer, a tenant of Lord St. John, who came in during the interview, added, "Yes, Sir, it is all true, masters are as well satisfied as the men; all are employed, and we shall shortly not have men enough." This took place last spring, and Mr. Whitehead's predictions have been fully verified; for the relieving officers of this Union inform me, that they have had frequent applications for labourers, but have been unable to inform the applicants where any were to be had.

Mr. *Sanders*, another farmer, at Kempston, near Bedford, used nearly the same language as Mr. Robinson. In this parish, in the quarter ending Lady-day 1835, there were 75 able-bodied men constantly receiving relief. In the same quarter, 1836, I found, on inquiry, that two of these had gone for soldiers, one was in gaol, one had emigrated, two had disappeared, and the remainder were at work in the parish or immediate neighbourhood; in short, none required relief. In the same parish in 1835 there were 26 able-bodied women receiving relief; in 1836 all except one found their own livelihood in their own village, or the immediate neighbourhood.

I may very properly close this account of the district immediately around Bedford with the following letter from the chairman of the Bedford Union:

"Though the new poor law has been so short a time in operation, and the confirmed habits require a long time to admit generally a marked change, for the habit amongst the poor to demand and receive relief has almost become second nature amongst them, yet my own observation leads me to the pleasing conclusion, that the staff on which they have been leaning, and which has pierced their hands, is even now, in some instances, removed from under them, and they are beginning to walk upright. The crisis for an alteration in the poor laws was a favourable one, for about the same time there was, and has been since, an

annual

annual demand for labour in the manufacturing and agricultural districts, and the numerous railways created an extraordinary outlet for manual labour; but there was a certain class of poor persons who would not even avail themselves of the most ready opportunities of earning a livelihood for themselves and families, but would rather half exist on a parish pittance. There were also, in numberless instances, sons and daughters in comparative affluence, who suffered their parents to be pensioners on a parish; and again, parents who were not careful to assist their children. The searching tendency of the new poor laws has been to detect these enormities, and prevent them; and the drones which were to be found in every parish have been compelled, in their own defence, to seek an independent maintenance; and the unnatural and undutiful conduct between parents and children has been already very much controlled. I am glad also to state, with truth, that what I formerly feared with respect to the bastardy law has not been realized, namely, a more frequent concealment of the birth of illegitimate children, if not of the murder of them. I was always prepared to admit the soundness of the principle on which the change in the law was made, but I still could not forbear apprehending, for a time at least, what I have stated. I think I may venture to say, that in this neighbourhood the contrary has been the effect; and there has been scarcely an appeal on the subject of bastardy at the quarter sessions at Bedford; though this may, in some degree, arise from the extreme difficulty of the proof required to be adduced. That there have been individual cases of hardship, with respect to the relief of the poor, I am not disposed to deny, and that in some instances there has been needless interference with the very old people, who might have been with safety permitted to finish their days in the way in which they were found by the new authorities. But when it is considered what an immense machine has been taken to pieces and remodelled, a machine which was destroying itself by the neglect and abuse of the directors of it, that so little of the evil and so much of the good has been the result, and the tendency of it is now, and will ever be (however individually oppressive), to teach men industry and independence, and to remove all obstacles from the avenues to private charity. I am, &c.

Turvey House, 12 May 1836. *Thomas Charles Higgins.*

From another part of Bedfordshire. Mr. Snitch, the very efficient relieving officer of the whole Biggleswade Union, writes me as follows:

Of the good effects which have already resulted from the new law, it gives me pleasure to enumerate the following. A great improvement in the moral condition of the poor in general, of which a decrease in pauperism affords the best possible proof, carrying with it also an earnest of still greater benefit as time advances, and pauperism becomes less common and familiar. With regard to the paupers, the real poor receive their allowance with thankfulness, and the demeanor of the able-bodied has undergone a wonderful alteration in applying to me for relief. Many of those who, under the old system, were in the habit of coming to me as assistant overseer with a demand, and when refused would abuse and threaten me with a summons, now reply, "Well, sir, do what you can for me and I'll try to get work." The ill-will formerly felt by the poor towards the overseer has been removed, and a better feeling on both sides in consequence substituted.

I may safely say that the alteration has been accomplished without oppression towards a single individual; nor am I aware of one single case of distress arising from neglect or refusal of relief. In proof of this I would observe that there have been no indications of violence, and but few cases of complaint even against our regulations or allowances. I challenge inquiry amongst the poor themselves, where indeed the inquiry ought to be made. Let any one visit their dwellings, and it will be found that they are possessed of as many of the necessaries and comforts of life now as previously to the Union, but with a much better idea of their value.

Circumstances, I admit, have been favourable; such as the low price of provisions and extra quantity of employment arising from an abundant harvest, but the winter has been long and severe. We have derived no material assistance from railroads or other accidental sources of employment, only one family having left us for Leeds.

The extra employment has been chiefly found within the Union, and in no small degree through the operations of the new law itself. An occupier remarked to me in conversation, "Your system has saved me 30*l.* in rates this year, which has enabled me to employ more hands and go on with improvements, from which I expect a return." In short, when we look back to the mismanagement, unbusiness-like mode of proceeding under the old system, the idea of saving money does not by any means imply a necessity for oppression.

Thinking the sentiments of some of the principal occupiers in the Union would be entitled to greater weight than my own, I have requested them to state in writing their opinion, and you will find the substance of their communications in the 13 following extracts from their letters to me. I am, &c. *F. Snitch*, Relieving Officer.

The following are copies of the letters alluded to by Mr. *Snitch*.

(1)—"I consider the new poor law has a most beneficial effect upon the able-bodied labourers in general. They are by far more anxious to get and retain employment; and so much are they improved in their general habits and industry, that I have frequently said two labourers now will perform as much work as three would under the old system; and many who previously were considered as idle, worthless creatures, are now seeking and getting employment, and bid fair to make good industrious labourers. And the check it has put upon drunkenness, with the incentive given to make the best use of every shilling they receive, is truly wonderful. I believe where we have now one case of intoxication we had 20. Our beer-shops were crowded on the Sabbath from morning until evening; and now I believe there

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there are very few enter them at all on that day, and almost all go to some place of worship. We are paying our labourers 1*s.* per week more than we did previous to the advance in wheat: we now give 8*s.* per week. I believe there never was more contentment between the employer and employed than at present. I do not think there is any increase in our neighbourhood of poaching, &c., but I think the number of individuals who were guilty of misdemeanors has considerably diminished. Upon the whole, I consider the new law acts remarkably well, and is one of the best that was ever passed by any legislature, and have no doubt it will be attended with incalculable advantage to the poor themselves, and to the community in general."

(2.)—" I am quite satisfied the labourers are very anxious at this time to get employment; have daily proof of it myself. Their manners and habits have for some time past been gradually improving, and can truly say they conduct themselves in a very becoming way; am quite satisfied with their present behaviour; have heard of no complaint from my neighbours. I state here what I have frequently uttered abroad. I believe originally there was as much money spent in the alehouse as the poor are now receiving. The publicans complain very much of empty houses. Wages are 8*s.* per week. I hear of no dissatisfaction against the new law, except from the worthless characters. I think poaching, &c. is not increasing."

(3.)—" There is decidedly a great desire amongst the able-bodied poor to seek and retain employment, and that their general manners and habits are improving. There is not that frequenting the alehouse as there used to be, and in some cases a disposition is shown to lay by part of their earnings; and there is evidently an increasing desire to enrol themselves in benefit clubs. The rate of wages same as last year. I think the new law is not agreeable to the generality of the labouring poor, for there are but few but what have had some relief, either themselves or relatives. I do not think the number of depredations have at all increased in the parishes round my residence."

(4.)—" It is my opinion that in this parish the new law has had a very good effect upon the able-bodied labourers; they are more active now in seeking out for employment, and are much more obliging; they do not frequent the alehouses near so much, and appear to have a desire to lay by part of their earnings, for what they term a rainy day. I heard my men in conversation the other day respecting a new beer-shop that was opened in the parish, when one of them remarked, 'It will be of no use to us, for if we have 1*s.* to spare we must take care of it now.' The rate of wages much the same as the preceding year, and I believe the good labourer appears better satisfied in his present condition than heretofore. We have not so many petty depredations, and it appears, in a manner of speaking, that we have got something like a new race of beings."

(5.)—" The new poor law system has, in my opinion, effected so great a change in the conduct of our able-bodied labourers that I almost fancy them a new race of men, they are so much more disposed now than formerly to keep their employment, and their manner and habits are so very much improved that we have now but little trouble to superintend them. From my own knowledge, they do not frequent the ale-houses as formerly; two years back on the Sabbath-day, whenever I passed some certain beer-shops, I could see from six to twelve labourers in each; but now, although I do not think they lay by any part of their earnings, I know that the greater part of what was spent in the beer-shop is now taken home to better support the family. I am certain that all classes are more satisfied; wages have advanced 1*s.* per week, partly owing to the advanced price of bread. Petty crimes are but slightly on the decrease, in fact much the same."

(6.)—" I am of opinion that the new law has had a very good effect upon the labourers; there is a greater disposition to obtain work, and an alteration in their manners towards their employer: I am paying rather higher wages; I think the steady man is better satisfied in consequence of the system adopted towards the idle. Poaching and petty crimes appear to diminish in our parish."

(7.)—" The new poor law has had a good effect upon the able-bodied labourers, as they seem to seek employment for themselves more than they did last year; there is an alteration in their manners and behaviour. I think they frequent the public-house as much or more than ever; they show no desire to lay by part of their earnings. There is some increase in the rate of wages from the preceding year. I think the industrious labourer feels more satisfied with his condition in consequence of the system adopted towards the idle. I am of opinion that poaching and petty depredations have diminished."

(8.)—" In my opinion the new poor laws have had a good effect upon the able labourers; they are generally more tractable and obedient, show a much greater desire to retain their employment; some of them have said to me 'We are now wholly dependent upon you for all we receive, there is now no one else that we can look to for support or assistance.' They do not, in my opinion, frequent the ale-house so much as they used to do. I think they have no desire, generally, to lay by any part of their earnings, but few at the present are able. Wages are a trifle higher. The steady labourer is much more contented than when the idle received as much for doing nothing. I think poaching and petty thefts are not carried to the extent they were."

(9.)—" I am fully persuaded the morals of the labourers are much improved by the new poor law system; there seems to be a general disposition to do more for their families, and are more condescending to their employers. Wages are 1*s.* per week higher, from the advance in corn. They tell me, 'it was those idle vagabonds that brought about this new law.' I am sorry to say that sheep-stealing and other depredations have been more prevalent since the system commenced than was ever known before. I consider this to arise from those bad fellows who won't work not being able to get any money from the overseer as they had been accustomed."

(10.)—" There

(10.)—" There is a disposition to seek after and retain work; their general habits and manners more to oblige their employers than formerly. They frequent the ale-house quite as much. I think it quite out of the question for a man with a family to save money out of 8*s.* per week; their rents average 1*s.* 6*d.* and clubs 6*d.* per week to deduct from that sum; even those who have the ability want the disposition. Wages are the same. I think the steady labourer feels more satisfied than heretofore. Poaching and petty depredations have increased in this parish double to any former year."

(11.)—" I think the new poor law has had a good effect, so far as to cause the labourers to seek and retain employment; it has also improved their general conduct in regard to industry. Wages are the same in this parish. The steady labourer feels more satisfied than formerly. I don't feel able to answer as to their frequenting the ale-house, or as regards poaching, &c. as to any alteration."

(12.)—" I think there is a greater disposition on the part of the able-bodied labourers to seek and retain employment than before the new poor law came into operation, but I do not see much alteration in their general manners and habits. The ale-houses are I think more frequented than ever, which may be accounted for in some measure to the facility given to the lower classes of persons in towns to obtain licences to sell beer, and partly to the neglect of the parish officers and the respectable inhabitants generally in not enforcing the law against beer-shopkeepers for selling at unseasonable times. The rate of wages has not been altered in this parish for a length of time; but considering the low price of wheat the last year (the price of which article has always been a guide), I may say they are much higher than formerly. I do think that the industrious labourers generally feel more satisfied with their condition, in consequence of the system adopted towards the idle, but I am not of opinion, that poaching and petty depredations have at all diminished, but that the greater crime of sheep-stealing has increased in a tenfold degree."

(13.)—" My opinion as to the effects of the new poor law system upon the able-bodied labourers, is as follows: they are more ready and willing to serve their masters and more careful of displeasing them, and if any are out of employ, are more eager to obtain work; they do not frequent the ale-houses so much as under the old system, because they cannot demand money of the overseer; I think they drink as much beer at their work as they used to do. I do not see any disposition to lay by a part of their earnings, nor do I think they can lay by any (speaking generally), for the price of labour is the same as last year, 9*s.* per week. I do not know that the industrious labourer is altered any, but I am certain that the working of the new poor law will make many more of this class. At present I think poaching and other depredations have been quite as numerous, and sheep-stealing is spreading more every year, and will be so until the idle labourers, who used to be paid for doing nothing, are worked off, by being transported for crime or reclaimed by the new system."

(14.)—" In contemplating the effects produced by the operation of the new Poor Law Bill, the mind is forcibly compelled to acknowledge its salutary effects on that class for whose benefit it was expressly enacted, as well as that in immediate connexion with it; the latter of whom, the middle class, have been relieved from all the harassing and vexatious duties of pauper legislation, and thereby exempted from those eternal bickerings which kept the rate-payers of a parish in continual hostility to each other; this is a benefit which the majority in every parish belonging to a Union are glad to partake of, and in almost every case equally ready to acknowledge, as well as that further advantage of a sensible reduction in the poor-rates; add to this the gratification of being relieved from the indiscriminate abuse they were continually exposed to, from the twin monster, pauperism and insolence; the pauper, in few cases, making an appeal for relief either to the parish officer or to the vestry, without insulting one and abusing the other. With respect to the pauper himself, the working of the new law has wrought an entire change in his habits and conduct. Taught to rely on his own exertions for support, he is now no longer, as formerly, seen lounging about so indifferent to employment, that he would not, frequently, take the trouble to ask for it; his nature has received a fillip, and through necessity he finds that bread may be had by the hungry when through labour they seek for it; hence we have the gratification of seeing the surplus population almost wholly employed, and through that employment they have now become pretty well weaned from their former hankerings after their old freehold, the parish.

" In addition to the benefit conferred individually on the pauper himself, his family are also partakers in the comforts his industry and reclaimed habits bring to his cottage and fire-side; so different to the days when the female part of the family reverted as it were the order of nature, and delicate woman toiled for indolent and sturdy man.

" At that time indeed, so lost appeared the pauper population to all habits of industry and prudence that they preferred the parade before the overseer's door, or the companions of the gravel pit to any employment whatever; the gravel pits being a sort of Normal school where they studied crime and made a science of depravity; hence arose the impossibility of any decent person, particularly a female, passing these gravel pits, when they happened to lie close by the roadside, without being grossly insulted; and many persons of both sexes have gone a distance round to avoid them. In these pits, or when congregating on the highway, or at the beer-shop, were concocted the most diabolical purposes, of which poaching was the most innocent; here they planned their assaults on parish officers, the houghing of cattle, or the burning of farms, &c. &c.; and here they stimulated each other to both the resistance and the breaking of the law, as was plainly to be inferred from their savage exultations at some of the midnight fires where they refused assistance, as for instance, at Elstow and other places, at the same time parading before the flames in ferocious triumph or beastly intoxication. Indeed so great was the terror excited by them throughout the kingdom in

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general and Bedfordshire in particular, that many timid persons deprecated the passing the new Poor Law Amendment Bill lest it might increase their disposition to violence. Happily, the very reverse effect has been produced, and instead of countenance and language of ferocity, instead of indolence and dependence, we now behold the pauper betaking himself to habits of industry and using the language of civility to obtain employment. Thus the condition of the able-bodied pauper has, in spite of himself, been most sensibly improved; whilst the aged, the sick, and the infirm have additional comforts never before contemplated; the moral habits, conduct and character of the poor of England have materially improved, and brought conviction to every reflecting mind, that with this class of persons, in order to ensure their welfare, every thing must be done for them, and nothing by them."

Injurious effect of the beer-houses.

With reference to the effect of the beer-shops, I have never heard but one opinion; it is combined in the sentiments expressed by Mr. Sullivan, the chairman of the Hitchin Union, who says, "As regards the beer-shops, the new Poor Act has had no effect upon them, unless it be in Baldock, where, in the answer sent from thence to my questions, they are said to be less frequented."

They increase daily in number, and the quantity of money spent at them by the labourers is very great. I may be wrong, but I consider them at present constituting the chief obstacle to the assumption of orderly and domestic habits by the labourer. He can hardly return to his cottage at night without passing by one of them, and when he sees a companion or two there, and a comfortable room and a blazing fire, and knows that he shall be met at home by all the wants and discomforts of poverty, it is a great temptation to him to enter in and enjoy its luxuries, although he may be aware that by so doing he is still increasing the misery of his family. The beer-shops are also a very principal cause why farmers are not more inclined to hire servants; they find that they cannot keep those servants they have out of them; unlike old times when there was one public-house in a parish, or perhaps two, and those in its main street, there is now a beer-shop on every green, and no farmer, whatever the situation of his farm, can hope to be so far removed from one as that his servants can be preserved from its allurements; add to which, the beer-shops, especially those in by-places, are the common resort of the worst characters in the neighbourhood, and little better than schools for every sort of vice.

Medical clubs;

With respect to medical relief, the Board are already in possession of much better information than I can give them; I have always considered that as pauperism in general decreased, medical pauperism must decrease with it, and that left alone, or only slightly aided, medical gentlemen would, for their own sakes, soon cause it to find its level. With this feeling I have attempted little more in my Unions than urging the medical gentlemen to create new connections, by receiving into clubs formed of the simplest elements, without treasurers, secretaries, or other machinery, those paupers who are becoming independent. I annex a prospectus of one of these sort of clubs, which are rapidly spreading, where they have not been checked by some other institution of a more complex though, in my opinion, less useful, and likely to be of a less lasting nature.

I have no farther attempted to aid them than by inducing the boards of guardians to make it a condition with their medical contractors, that they should open establishments of the sort, fully satisfied that this precedent would soon acquire numerous followers.

General rules of.

I annex Rules circulated in some parts of my district for Medical Societies:

"That all married men for medical attendance upon their wives and children, (under the age of 17), pay 5*s.* a year.

"That all widows for themselves and children, (under the age of 17), pay 4*s.* a year.

"That all single persons, whether male or female, pay 3*s.* a year.

"That all persons wishing to become members of this club, pay six months subscription in advance. All members neglecting to do so, shall forfeit their claims for medical attendance until he or she shall have paid all arrears.

"That no person shall be attended on the club account during an illness brought on by drunkenness, any imprudence, or fighting.

"That all the more wealthy residents of this parish be requested to become honorary members.

"That agricultural and day labourers only be admitted to the benefits of this club.

"That all honorary members have the privilege of recommending sick persons according to the amount of annual subscriptions; viz. an annual subscriber of one guinea may recommend seven yearly; an annual subscriber 10*s.* 6*d.*, four yearly; an annual subscriber of 5*s.*, two yearly.

"Mr. ——— will be in attendance to receive subscriptions and names of subscribers, at his house, in ————————, every Saturday morning, between the hours of eight and ten in the forenoon."

I cannot conclude this Report without expressing the unfeigned pleasure I experience in observing the successful working of a measure the result of which I never doubted, though I never anticipated it would be realized with such astonishing rapidity; and it affords me equal pleasure to add that the working of the Unions is proceeding harmoniously and uninterruptedly. I have nowhere observed any disposition on the part of any persons to prevent the due putting in force of the new system. I rejoice to inform you that to the extent of my observation I have found all parties co-operating most cordially, and particularly amongst the higher classes, many of whom were at first adverse to the new law, but having now seen its advantages, are indefatigable advocates for its universal adoption.

To the Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

I have, &c.
D. G. Adey.

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No. 7.
Report of
Colonel
C. Ashe A'Court.

— No. 7. —

REPORT on the Counties of *Southampton* and *Wilts*, by Colonel *Charles Ashe A'Court*, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.—[With a Supplement.]

Gentlemen, Southampton, 10 May, 1836.

In complying with the instructions conveyed to me by your secretary, on the 3d instant, I shall probably best consult your wishes and convenience if I abstain from a repetition of the general observations which from time to time it has been my duty to submit to you; by avoiding all the tedious details of the formation of the several Unions under my inspection; by omitting all statement of the motives which induced me to regulate their extent and population, and by simply laying before you a brief exposition of the progress they have made, the effects they have produced, and the condition in which I have found them at the period of my latest visits. My separate reports on each are already before you; but to these I propose to allude only where the testimony of the resident gentry as to the correctness of my impressions has not reached me. I perform the more readily the duty required of me, as I am enabled through the courtesy of many of the chairmen of the boards of guardians and others, to submit to you at the same time the result of their valuable observations on the same subjects. Unwilling to rely entirely upon my own personal inquiries and judgment, I have applied to them severally for their opinions as to the general working of the new system of poor law administration throughout their districts, more especially with reference to the moral effect on the labouring classes, to the diminution of able-bodied pauperism, and the estimated decrease in the amount of the sums lately levied for the use of the poor. Introduction.

On each of these points their able statements, which are appended to this communication, are exceedingly satisfactory and encouraging. In many instances preconceived opinions, unfavourable to the new system, are candidly avowed; that they have been removed or modified is the surest test of the efficacy of the measures which have been adopted, and the discretion with which they have been introduced and established.

I will not dwell on the former pauperised condition of the two extensive counties (Hants and Wilts) in which I have been engaged since the commencement of the Poor Law Commission; but it is necessary that this circumstance should be borne in mind, in order to enable you to form a correct judgment of the salutary alterations which have been effected, and of those which are still in progress. The advantages gained have perhaps occasionally been obtained without the aid of complete workhouse accommodation; very rarely, however, without some sort of asylum by which to test the destitution of applicants for parochial assistance: and I would add, that the improvement in the conduct and bearing of the paupers has generally gone hand in hand with the efficiency of the establishments prepared for their reception. There is a wholesome dread of workhouse discipline which induces most, nay, all the single men to prefer seeking for independent labour to the irksome confinement held out as the alternative to them; and so salutary is the effect of this feeling, that wherever well-regulated Union workhouses have been established, able-bodied pauperism has almost entirely disappeared. Bradford, in Wilts, may be cited in support of this position. This admirably-conducted Union appears to have attained a point beyond which no considerable improvement can be looked for. Able-bodied pauperism is no longer tolerated. The new Union workhouse, calculated to contain full 400 inmates, duly classified, was, on the 1st of March, occupied by only 95 paupers, amongst whom there were so few able to work, that the guardians were obliged to hire servants to perform the necessary services. Former and present states of Hants and Wilts. Bradford Union. Workhouse.

Of 50 or 60 illegitimate children ordered into the house, only two or three have presented themselves for admission. Bastardy.

Prior to the Union there were 1,450 heads of families receiving parochial relief; there are now only 513. Number of paupers.

The weekly expenditure on the poor, which usually amounted to 200*l.*, was in February only 61*l.* Expenditure.

In five or six of the Unions under my inspection, amongst others in that of Bradford, I have felt justified in recommending that your "order" should be issued, peremptorily prohibiting all out-relief to able-bodied paupers; and I propose that this regulation should be extended to every Union, so soon as the workhouses now in progress are completed. Prohibition of out-door relief to able-bodied.

At every circuit some additional Unions will be found ready to be placed in this advanced state of improvement; and in the course of another twelvemonth the system will probably be general throughout the country.

No season could be more favourable than the present for the introduction of this great change in the social relations of the labouring classes. The price of provisions is still reasonable; the demand for labour in the manufacturing districts unprecedented; railroads are constructing in every part of England; the iron founders are all seeking additional hands to keep pace with their enormous orders, and there is an increased desire on the part of the wealthier portion of the community to assist their poorer neighbours to seek their fortunes in the colonies. Facilities for change of system.

It is curious to observe the readiness with which, even before the existence of these facilities, of these important advantages, the supposed surplus population of the most pauperised parishes has been absorbed by the introduction of the workhouse system, which would seem completely to bear out the opinion that throughout the country there is no real superabundance of labourers, none that could not be profitably employed in the cultivation Absorption of the apparent surplus of population.

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tion of the soil, in trade or in other necessary callings. If considered merely in reference to some very few particular parishes, there doubtless may be found exceptions to this general observation; and I might instance Hindon, in Wilts, as most distinctly coming under such exception. With an area of less than 170 acres, it contains a population of 921 souls; but it fortunately happens that the adjoining villages are so thinly inhabited that every well-conducted and willing labourer can generally procure employment. In the autumn of 1835, when I formed the Tisbury Union, in which Hindon is included, there were, even at that season of the year, some 20 strong and healthy men loitering round the inn door, importunate in their applications to me, sullen, discontented, murmuring, unemployed, and receiving a mere trifle from the overseer, "to do the best they could for themselves." In less than a month after the Union was in operation, I found only seven men out of work, and of these, two or three were stated to be almost past their labour.

Downton also may be stated as a parish, from whatever cause, over-burthened with labourers; but here a spirit of emigration has developed itself, and upwards of 200 paupers, amongst whom were 70 lads and able-bodied men, have lately been assisted to remove to Canada, where the most cheering prospects present themselves to them. Wherever an undoubted surplus population exists, emigration is perhaps the only effectual mode of disposing of it. To devise permanent and profitable employment for it, in a district where no additional labour is required, is manifestly impossible.

Difficulty of ascertaining superabundance of labourers.

It is a matter of very great difficulty to ascertain, even with an approximation to truth, the actual existence of a superabundance of labourers. I can instance scarcely a single parish in which there is not ample employment in the summer season. In winter men are too frequently discharged, not because there is not profitable labour for them, but because their services can be spared, and the small occupiers of the land are too distressed to incur expenses not absolutely indispensable.

Testimony of chairman of Unions as to effects of new system.

You will perceive by the communications with which I have been favoured by the several chairmen and others, that my inquiries have been principally confined to the moral effect resulting from the new system, to the decrease of pauperism, and to the diminution of the poor-rates. I have been the less anxious on the latter point, being confident that as able-bodied pauperism is reduced, so will the burthens of the rate-payers be confined to the legitimate object of the poor laws, the provision for the aged, the infirm and destitute. Hitherto a very material portion of the parochial funds have been applied to other purposes. These communications are the more satisfactory to me, as they corroborate in every essential particular the statements which I have already submitted to you.

As my information has been principally obtained by questions propounded in the presence of the guardians, at their public sittings, I had reason to believe it to be well founded; but in order entirely to satisfy you on this point, I have called in the authority of gentlemen, who, upon this, as upon every occasion, have evinced the utmost readiness to assist me.

Decrease of number of improvident marriages.

I have very generally been informed by the guardians, that improvident marriages, and indeed marriages of any kind, have materially decreased: that the views of the labouring classes, as to early marriages, have undergone considerable alteration; and that they are now cautious of entering into engagements which the new laws may render inconvenient to them; but I have never had the opportunity, or the leisure, to verify the fact by any examination of the parish registers. I have, however, within these few days, received from the Droxford Union, a comparative statement of the number of marriages solemnized by banns, in the years 1835–1836.

In 1835, the old system of parochial management obtained; in 1836, the Union was in operation.

A Comparative Statement of Marriages, by Banns, solemnized in the *Droxford* Union, between March 1834 and March 1835, and March 1835 and March 1836.

	1834–5.	1835–6.
Hambleden	11	1
Bishop's Waltham	8	5
Durley	none	5
Corhampton	1	5
Exton	1	1
Upham	7	3
Droxford	5	5
West-Meon	3	2
Warnford	2	4
Soberton	3	2
Meon-Stoke	1	none
Total	42	33

This return exhibits a decrease of about 22 per cent.; the diminution being the most considerable in those parishes in which pauperism existed in the greatest degree.

Number of bastardy cases.

Whether or not there has been any actual diminution in the number of bastardy cases since the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, so confidently asserted, I have been unable satisfactorily to ascertain; but I am everywhere informed that the number of illegitimate

timate children, for whom relief is demanded, has of late very materially lessened. The quarterly abstracts which are now preparing will probably enable us very shortly to determine this point.

Arrangements for affording medical relief.

As much interest has lately been excited on the subject of medical relief, I subjoin a statement of the contracts lately entered into by the different boards of guardians in my district, made very generally upon tender, as suggested by me to the several Union clerks, prior to the termination of the last parochial year.

HANTS.

UNIONS.	Population.	Amount of Contracts.
		£. s. d.
Romsey	9,969	223 14 –
South Stoneham	9,447	168 – –
Lymington	9,501	185 – –
Droxford	9,549	235 – –
* Catherington	1,950	54 12 –
Petersfield	7,111	148 – –
Alton	10,334	300 – –
New Alresford	6,512	180 – –
Hartley Wintney	9,830	290 – –
Basingstoke	15,479	460 – –
Fareham	12,137	210 – –
Havant	6,398	150 – –
Kingsclere	7,884	200 – –
Whitchurch	5,175	125 – –
Stockbridge	6,552	160 – –
* Andover	16,481	400 – –
Winchester	16,807	371 – –
Hursley	2,718	80 – –
* Christchurch	7,089	130 – –
* Fordingbridge	5,567	139 3 6
Ringwood	4,907	120 – –
Eling	11,613	160 – – for 6 months only.

The Unions marked thus * allow 10*s.* or 10*s.* 6*d.* extra for cases of midwifery.

WILTS.

UNIONS.	Population.	Amount of Contracts.
		£. s. d.
Amesbury	7,084	205 – –
Alderbury	13,227	247 – –
Wilton	10,270	260 – –
Tisbury	9,763	194 10 –
* Mere	7,794	165 – –
* Melksham	18,252	163 13 –
Westbury	13,164	295 – –
* Devizes	20,638	336 10 –
Bradford	12,660	180 – –
Calne	8,973	160 – –
* Warminster	17,150	385 – –
* Highworth	12,611	240 – –
Cricklade	10,275	200 – –
* Marlborough	9,070	150 – –
Chippenham	19,265	390 – –
* Malmesbury	13,280	220 – –
* Pewsey	11,674	200 – –

The Unions marked thus * allow 10*s.* to 10*s.* 6*d.* extra for each case of midwifery.

No part of my duty has given me more anxiety than the medical arrangements. Diligent to provide for the wants of the destitute, I have been equally desirous that ample justice should be done to the medical profession; but the difficulty has been to ascertain what amount of salary may be considered as fair and reasonable remuneration for the services required of it. In one instance only have I been able to procure a return of the number of cases

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cases attended in the course of the year. In a Union of 7,794 souls, 521 paupers required medical assistance within the twelvemonth; and calculating each case at 6*s.*, a calculation not unfrequently relied upon in attendance on benefit societies, the salary of the medical men would amount to 156*l.* 6*s.* The sum contracted for, to include midwifery and all surgical cases, is 165*l.*, or 4¾*d.* per head on the whole population. The tenders per case however, without fixing any limit to the gross annual amount to be received, appear to me objectionable. In a large Union in Wilts the tenders varied from 2*s.* to 10*s.* per case, but not so the gross amounts.

In one district the tenders were—

3*s.* 6*d.* per case, not to exceed	£. 50	–	–
5*s.* per case, not to exceed	42	–	–

In another—

2*s.* per case, not to exceed	£. 46	4	–
5*s.* per case, not to exceed	40	–	–

And in another—

3*s.* per case, not to exceed	£. 40	–	–
6*s.* per case, not to exceed	40	–	–

I in vain endeavoured to learn upon what principle these calculations were founded.

Until the establishment of self-supporting dispensaries, already formed in some districts, and contemplated in many, I am rather disposed to recommend to the guardians to be in some degree guided in their calculations by a given price per head on the population, rich and poor, varying the amount according as it is scattered or otherwise. Under ordinary circumstances from 4*d.* to 5*d.* per head appears to be considered reasonable by the medical gentlemen. In my extensive district, testing the salaries fixed by the per head calculation, the price varies from 7*d.* to 3¾*d.*; but at the latter sum a self-supporting dispensary relieves the profession from much very arduous duty. At the same time I am satisfied that the surest mode of arriving at a just conclusion is by advertising for tenders, with the understanding that there is no obligation to accept the lowest.

In the county of Hants generally the average per head is 5½*d.* In Wilts, 4¼*d.*

I have already not unfrequently stated to you that I have never been of opinion that even under the old system of parochial management any serious neglect of duty existed as regards the attendance on the paupers, although very generally reported. In my experience as a magistrate of many years standing, I have rarely detected any dereliction of duty on the part of the profession. Indeed since the peace of 1814, every town, and almost every village, has had so many practitioners settled in it, all properly jealous of reputation, anxious for employment, and observant of each others' conduct, that in my opinion the sick and the infirm are better attended to at the present moment than at any period within my recollection. In many instances the medical gentlemen have been confessedly under-paid; nevertheless they appear to me to have performed their ill-requited services with exemplary cheerfulness and alacrity.

Charges for medical relief of paupers under suspended orders of removal.

One great abuse, and one only, has met my observation, that of the extra charges formerly occasionally preferred by the medical men and sanctioned by the overseers, more especially for attendance on paupers under suspended orders of removal. The present contracts remedy this irregularity; and under these an additional check has been imposed, by requiring a weekly report of services performed and attendances given; still, as in almost every case, the same gentlemen have been engaged in the Union, as were previously employed by one or more of the parishes belonging to it. I have perceived no alteration either in the regularity of their attendance, or in their attention to their patients.

Cause of dissatisfaction of medical gentlemen.

I do not understand that their strongly-expressed dissatisfaction arises so much from the amount of the remuneration offered to them, as to the vast extent of the districts they are sometimes required to attend. I think it may be, and clearly is occasionally advantageous to the paupers, as well as convenient to the other parties, to divide a straggling district; and I have upon principle never objected to have more than one medical man in districts so circumstanced, provided they reside within reasonable distance of the relieving officers. I have never insisted upon making the medical and the relieving officers' districts co-extensive, an arrangement which may possibly have increased the excitement which has of late been manifested.

I have dwelt longer than I had intended upon this subject, from a conviction of the deep interest you take in it, both in reference to the interests of the paupers, and the just claims of the profession.

With these preliminary observations I will at once proceed to draw your attention to the degree of success which has attended each of the several Unions under my charge, not troubling you with even a summary of the reports already transmitted to you, but by placing in evidence the opinions of those by whose zealous exertions every good that has been effected has been accomplished.

It may be necessary to remind you that many of the Hampshire Unions were not in operation until the middle of September, whilst those of Wilts, with the exception of Calne and Bradford, were not even declared until the month of November. In both counties extensive workhouse accommodation must yet be provided before your views and intentions can be complied with.

I cannot

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No. 7
Report of
Colonel
C. Ashe A'Court.

I cannot close this communication without offering my humble testimony to the able and cheerful manner in which the guardians have everywhere undertaken and performed their very onerous duties. Freely have they devoted their time and attention to secure the comfort of the really indigent, coercing only the idle and profligate, and compelling them to rely on self-exertion for subsistence.

They have had to contend against difficulties of no ordinary nature and description, often without the advantage of a workhouse; but they have nevertheless carried out the principle of the Poor Law Amendment Act to the fullest extent that circumstances will permit, in spite of all the obstacles that have presented themselves.

I feel anxious to add that they have always evinced the utmost readiness to assist those who, under your directions, are appointed to superintend and regulate their proceedings.

I remain, &c.

C. A. A'Court, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner

Supplement to Colonel A'Court's Report.

Communications from the several Boards of Guardians in the County of *Hants.*

Fordingbridge Union.

John Coventry, Esq., Chairman.

I have much pleasure, as chairman of the board of guardians of the Fordingbridge Union, in bearing testimony to the great benefit which the new system of poor laws has introduced into this district. It cannot perhaps be expected at this early period (the Union having been established very little more than six months), that the moral improvement in the labouring classes can as yet have arrived at the point which I hope and believe it will ultimately attain; still there is, even now, a sensible change for the better, inasmuch as able-bodied pauperism has considerably diminished.

I beg to observe that I am not founding this opinion on the diminution, in this respect, that must always take place, owing to the increased demand for labour at this season of the year; but I do so from a close observation on the progress of the effect of the system from the commencement of the Union, which, by discountenancing the application of parish funds to keep the able-bodied pauper in idleness, has compelled him to rely more on his own exertions for support. I can reply also most satisfactorily to your inquiry respecting the burthen of the poor-rates of the Union. All the out-parishes have experienced the benefit of a considerable decrease, and as this has taken place under the drawback attendant on the outlay necessary on the formation of the establishment, a further progressive decrease may be confidently expected.

The central parish of Fordingbridge, although somewhat benefited, has not experienced so much pecuniary advantage as the other component parishes; but this circumstance may, I think, be accounted for in the close attention that was paid for many years past to parochial affairs by the select vestries, who, as far as the old law would allow them, generally acted upon a system somewhat approaching the new order of things. I do not, however, despair of increased benefit accruing to the rate-payers of Fordingbridge, when the new machine shall have been longer in use.

It will not perhaps give less weight to the opinion I have advanced, when I candidly acknowledge that I was unaccountably prejudiced against the new system previous to the formation of our Union; and was only induced to accept the office of chairman of the board, so flatteringly assigned to me, lest, in the event of failure, it should be said that, as a principal landed proprietor in the parish, I had abstained from affording my feeble assistance in carrying out principles which, if fairly brought into operation, would have been a benefit to the neighbourhood.

Burgate House, 30 April 1836. (signed) *John Coventry.*

Fareham Union.

Rear Admiral Austen, Chairman.

So far as my observation goes, and as corroborated by such information as I have yet been able to procure from the occupants of land in this neighbourhood, I am led to believe that there has been a very decided improvement in the conduct of the labouring poor. Feeling that they have not now the parish purse to throw themselves on, they are become more desirous of obtaining regular work, and consequently more careful to give satisfaction to their employers, that they may retain it. The diminution of able-bodied pauperism has also been considerable; in Wymering and Widley, the two parishes with which I have most intercourse, it has nearly disappeared, as I believe it has in the other small parishes of the Union. What remains is chiefly confined to the parishes of Titchfield and Fareham.

The decrease in the expenditure for the maintenance of the poor throughout the Union for the nine months ending at Lady-day last was 45 ½ per cent. on the average of the three years immediately preceding the Union, varying in the different parishes from 40 to 52 ½ per cent.

Another result of the system is a decrease of parish litigation, to what extent I am not prepared to say, but I believe it to be very considerable. This may indeed partly arise from accidental circumstances, totally unconnected with the Union; but if it were wholly so, it is somewhat extraordinary the effect should be produced simultaneously in all the parishes.

I have no doubt that a good effect will also be produced with respect to a diminution of bastardy; but of course such a result can only be ascertained at a future period. On the whole my firm conviction is, that the new system is calculated to produce the most extensive good; and though it may in some few instances press rather hard on individuals, yet the

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cases will be few; not more than private benevolence may readily supply, and by no means such as to constitute a serious objection to it as a legislative measure.

Portsdown Lodge, 2 May 1836. (signed) *Francis W. Austen.*

Romsey Union.

Mr. Josiah George, Chairman.

I THINK the improvement of the tone of moral feeling is in gradual progress, so far as it regards the behaviour of the labourers towards their employers; a disposition to obtain employment wherever it can be had, and a sense of the importance and necessity of depending upon their own energies, which it must be allowed the former system tended to undermine, if not almost to destroy. The proportion of able-bodied pauperism is much decreased, which is strikingly shown by the comparative monthly report; and as a consequence, in the parishes of Romsey, infra and extra, the burthens of the rate-payers (connected with the contribution to the poors'-rate specifically) are reduced, in the former parish 25 to 30 per cent. and in the latter 35 to 40.

It must not be concealed, that there are occasional cases which are difficult to meet without something approaching hardship; and I am still of opinion, as I ever have been, that the best results of the new system will be produced by a mild and rather modified application of the strict letter of the new Poor Law Act; coupling, with the desire to reduce the amount of poor-rate, such a demeanor towards the poor, and effort to find the means of their employment, as shall convince them that we are, in every sense of the word, guardians of their interests as well as of our own.

Romsey, 30 April 1836. (signed) *Josiah George.*

New Forest Union.

Rev. Wm. J. G. Phillips, Chairman.

I HAVE laid before the board of guardians your letter of the 28th of April. The general opinion is, that some improvement is perceivable in the habits of the labourers in reference to employment; and that they expect greater advantages when the Union workhouse is established. In some parishes the expenses have been reduced.

Eling Vicarage, 4 May 1836. (signed) *W. J. G. Phillips.*

Winchester Union.

John Young, Chairman.

THE time elapsed since the formation of our Union has been so limited as not sufficiently to afford a display of its benefits: other causes have also materially operated to our disadvantage, for assuredly we have no just right at present to expect those extensive benefits which a well-organized workhouse will, I trust, shortly afford us, but the advantages of which we are at present in a great measure denied: till that period arrives the moral influence of the system on the able-bodied labourer cannot justly be expected to be fully displayed; although I must say from my own observation, and it is the opinion also of most of the rural guardians, that the industry and moral habits of the agricultural labourer is evidently daily improving.

A new system introduced into 32 parishes certainly could not be expected to be effectual without considerable difficulty, which time alone, in many instances, can remedy; but I am happy to say we progress steadily, which to me is the pleasantest and safest mode; as it is obvious that by these means that prejudice which accompanied the introduction of a new system, is imperceptibly disappearing. When the least appearance of imposition has occurred, under any circumstances, we have invariably given an order to the workhouse; and I venture to affirm, that not above one-third have accepted the order, and these but for a very short period. Very few labourers are at present out of employ. As an instance of the benefit of a perseverance in this system, I will quote the neighbouring parish of Twyford, which, at the commencement of our Union, usually had about 20 troublesome young labourers on their book, but which now by this system is disburthened of the whole; they having found employ in preference to the workhouse.

Our first quarter's reduction in expense was above 30 per cent. on the average; that ending in March not so great; but which would have been considerably increased had not many liabilities come in of former annual payments, and by which that quarter's expenditure is prodigiously swollen; particularly that of the charge for lunatic paupers and contracts for rents terminating at Lady-day, which will appear under the head, "Other expenses," in the quarterly abstract. This however cannot occur again, as the payments must of course be within each quarter; and in all probability the general charge under this head will be greatly lessened, the guardians having determined to advertise for tenders for lunatics.

Upon the whole, therefore, I think we can congratulate ourselves that our labours have not been in vain; and that, from our present position, we have a just right to infer that eventual success, which will not only be the means of carrying out the system to the pecuniary benefit of the district, but also that its effects will steadily operate to the moral benefit of the able-bodied labourers, to such an extent as in the end almost to supersede the necessity of their actual experience of the system.

Winchester, 3 May 1836. (signed) *John Young.*

Christchurch Union.

Henry Pain, Esq., Clerk.

I DULY received your favour of the 28th ultimo, and as your questions appeared of considerable importance, I delayed answering them until I had consulted the guardians thereon.

I beg to state, with reference to the decrease of the poor rate, that there is a considerable saving in each parish as the annexed statement will show, by comparing a fourth of the averages with the costs of each quarter ending the 25th December and 25th March last.

The

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No. 7.
Report of Colonel *C. Ashe A'Court.*

The parish of Holdenhurst more particularly feels relief from the poor law system, not only from a decrease of poor-rate, but in the improvement of the morals of the labouring classes, arising no doubt from the fact of their having obtained employment during the winter, and which has operated in some degree to a diminution of able-bodied pauperism.

The guardians desire me to observe, in justice to Sir G. W. T. Jervis, that the surplus labourers belonging to the parishes of Christchurch and Holdenhurst have been employed by that gentleman on his estates during the winter, which has tended to relieve the rate and improve the morals of the paupers."

PARISHES.	Averages on the formation of the Union.	One-fourth of the Average Returns.	Maintenance of the Poor for the Quarter ending 25 December 1835.	Maintenance of the Poor for the Quarter ending 25 March 1836.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Christchurch - -	2,413	603	486	448
Holdenhurst - -	452	113	65	60
Sopley - - -	757	164	164	133
£. - - -		880	690	641

Christchurch, 3 May 1836. (signed) *Henry Pain.*

New Alresford Union.

W. S. Beare, Esq., Chairman.

From official as well as from my individual observation, I decidedly think the labouring poor now see and feel, that by their best exertions and frugality, they can procure a comfortable maintenance independent of the parish. A better proof of the correctness of this opinion I conceive cannot be adduced than the amazing change that is universally allowed to be most conspicuous in their conduct and behaviour; and consequently morality, I trust, cannot fail to follow.

In our Union we have selected several families, whose situations demanded their taking the full charge of their aged parents, which, I am persuaded, is a most wholesome part of the new system, and from the examples we have had, works really well.

Able-bodied pauperism has generally diminished; in some of our parishes no such thing has been kown through the winter; in others but few examples; and even in the parish that has been heretofore most burdened, the numbers have been considerably reduced. Indeed I am fully persuaded, with a vigorous administration of the Poor Law Amendment Act, it may be hoped that pauperism, to the fullest extent that can warrantably be expected, will wholly disappear at no very distant period. The parish of Ropley has just started ten young men to America, which laudable step, I do hope, will greatly tend to do away with able-bodied pauperism in that hitherto grievously burdened parish.

With regard to the decrease of rates, there is, in the aggregate, a considerable diminution; but it is partial: those parishes of our Union that were previously best conducted, show but a trifling difference, whereas in others the decrease is very considerable. The comparative quarters up to Christmas 1834 and Christmas 1835, at the quarterly audit, show a decrease of 500*l.*; but this I cannot admit to be a really fair and correct account. The quarter that is just ended, however, positively shows a decrease of 150*l.* in the maintenance of the poor, as compared with that ending at Christmas last, which is really correct. But here I must observe, and I do so with great satisfaction, we have adopted a liberal policy in dealing out a weekly maintenance to the sick, and also to the aged and infirm pauper pensioners through our Union, and I believe is something higher than some others around us; and consequently, although these extra charges do not apparently much swell our expenditure, yet we well know many trifles put together materially increase the gross amount.

The temporary workhouse which, with your sanction, the board of guardians I have the satisfaction to preside over allowed me to recommend being set up until the new one is ready for occupation, has also worked admirably. In it life has begun and ended; and it is most consolatory to me to know, that in those cases, and in several others of aged inmates that were admitted under situations of the greatest misery and real distress, it has proved, as it is designed to be, a comfortable refuge; and I sincerely believe they are perfectly satisfied and truly thankful.

As far as this imperfect establishment can be carried, it is really a workhouse, industry being, at every hour of the day, to be seen in its fullest vigour; and which, by strict discipline and regularity, has been made most effective, more especially among the younger classes. And I feel confident the rising generation who are there will never forget the inestimable benefits which they are day by day receiving, both in a consistent sort of education, as well as in every employ that is proper for their juvenile years.

Old Alresford, 4 May 1836. (signed) *W. S. Beare.*

Petersfield Union

Mr. W. Albury, Clerk.

The poor law system has worked well in the Petersfield Union, and a great saving in the expenditure has been effected. Steep has experienced the greatest benefit, the average of that parish having been taken at 925*l.*, and the expenditure for the year ending on the 25th March last for the relief of the poor, not amounting to more than 436*l.* The labouring classes

Mem.—This passage is copied *verbatim.*

£.	s.	d.
3)1723	–	–
574	6	8

£.170.

classes in that parish have been much improved; they are anxious to get work, and industrious when employed, which was not the case under the old system; and the able-bodied pauperism in that parish is nearly extinct. In Petersfield a considerable saving has taken place in the last year's expenditure, included in the three years' average ending March 1835, which amounted to 560*l.* only (the three years taken together being 723*l.*); but by the operation of the new system, I am glad to inform you that even in this sum there has been a reduction in the expenditure of 155*l.*; in the year the payments amounting to 404*l.*

The expenditure of East Meon has been lessened above 500*l.*; but I am sorry to say that the able-bodied pauperism in that parish still exists to a considerable extent; in several of the other parishes it is much reduced, and in some totally done away with.

Upon the working of the Poor Law Bill, upon the whole, I can venture to say, that upon a fair calculation a saving of above 3,000*l.* will be effected out of the average expenditure of 7,153*l.*, taken upon the Union for the three years preceding its formation, at the expiration of the year from that period.

As to the moral improvement of the labouring classes, I can report favourably in general, with the exception of East Meon, which I am sorry to say has not much improved, the wages for labour being low, and the men not fully employed.

Petersfield, 28 April 1836. (signed) *William Albury.*

Droxford Union.

Robert H. Stares, Esq., Chairman.

It gives me the greatest pleasure to inform you, from actual observation as well as from inquiries, that the moral improvement of the labouring classes exceeds my expectation. They now find that their existence mainly depends upon their own exertions.

I do not know if the last quarterly accounts were laid before the board at the last meeting; but I am well satisfied a great decrease of poor-rates has been made in the Union.

I am sorry to add, able-bodied pauperism continues at Hambledon, though not to the extent it was before the Union commenced.

Taking it generally, I consider the system working remarkably well.

1 May 1836. (signed) *Robert H. Stares.*

Andover Union.

Rev. C. Dodson, Chairman.

The result of my observations as to the moral effects of the new poor law system upon the general character of the labouring classes in this Union, is very satisfactory.

The labourer has now to depend solely upon his own exertions, and is thus obliged to exercise habits of foresight and frugality, and above all sobriety, which under the old system was almost unknown. To prove the general improvement of morals, I will merely state that beer-houses have decreased; illicit connexions and imprudent marriages have diminished. There may certainly be particular instances where the able-bodied labourer is not so well off when oppressed with a large family, as he was under the old system; but the general consequence has been to prevent wages from falling, and in some instances to raise them.

Able-bodied pauperism has much diminished, and is gradually lessening; and it must do so as a necessary consequence of the improved morals and habits of the country; and when I say this, you will recollect that we (the Andover Union) have not yet had the advantages derivable from the workhouse system. The workhouse will, I have no doubt, wholly eradicate able-bodied pauperism. Even without it the burden of the poor-rates has very much diminished, as you will see by a reference to the comparative quarters from Christmas to Lady-day 1835–1836, which will be forwarded to you by to-morrow's post, by the clerk of the Union. The old and infirm are, at the same time, equally as well taken care of as under the previous system; but in addition to the advantages which it has conferred upon the poor, it has been equally advantageous to the moral feeling of those who are more fortunately circumstanced. I hear from all quarters that the current of private charity never ran so clear and unobstructed. I have heard many of the farmers say that they have now a pleasure in employing men who apply civilly for work, and who, when they are employed, are anxious to please their masters: a conduct directly the reverse of the rude and insolent manner in which work was formerly demanded as a right.

I have thus hastily given you a brief general sketch of the system as it works with us. I have written it thus hastily, and without entering into details, as you wished an immediate answer.

Andover, 2 May 1836. (signed) *Charles Dodson.*

Summary of Expenses in the *Andover* Union, as supplied by the Clerk of the Union.

	£.	s.	d.
Expenditure for quarter ending Lady-day 1835 - - - - -	3,527	4	2¾
Ditto - for quarter ending Lady-day 1836 - - - - -	2,149	17	7¾
Decrease - - - £.	1,377	6	5

(signed) For *W. Lamb,*
J. W. L. Maude.

Lymington Union.

J. Blackiston, Esq. Chairman.

First, "with respect to the moral improvement of the labouring classes in this Union."

From the short time which the Poor Law Amendment Act has been in operation, and from the imperfect means at our command, owing to the want of a central workhouse, (our's being now only in the act of being occupied,) I think it premature to expect that my material improvement could have been effected in the moral condition of the labouring classes.

Of

Of the moral effect of the new law on the poor, I have had sufficient evidence in observing their successful efforts to obtain independent work, and to rely on their own resources for maintenance.

Secondly, " with respect to the diminution of able-bodied pauperism," the following facts will speak :

In the two principal parishes of the Union, comprising more than half the population (from which alone I can get accurate returns), there were during the month of March 1835, before the Union, on an average, 67 able-bodied men employed in parish labour; whereas during the corresponding period of this year there have been only 20.

We have not been equally successful in some of the other parishes, particularly Milton, where, from some disagreement among the occupiers of land, a considerable number of men from parishes out of the Union have been employed in preference to their own labourers.

We are now in correspondence with the government agent for migration at Manchester; and if we can only obtain from him the assurance of labour being provided for only a few of our men and their families, we shall be able entirely to do away with parish labour to able-bodied persons. Not that I think many will avail themselves of the offer of being transferred to places where they can obtain labour at good wages, (for unfortunately the desultory habits of the population in this neighbourhood, owing to the proximity of the New Forest and the facilities for smuggling, have rendered them averse to regular employment;) but it will supply us with a ready answer to those who apply for work; and enable us, without compensation, to act up to the letter of the law, in denying relief out of the workhouse to able-bodied persons. To single men, we have for some time past ceased to give work; but have supplied them with the means, where they required it, to convey them to the railways and other places where labour is in demand.

Of able-bodied paupers, there are now very few in the workhouse (not more than before the Union,) and those are chiefly females.

The cases of relief on account of illegitimate children have diminished, and in this respect I think the alteration in the law has had an immediate and salutary effect.

Upon the whole, I observe that the Poor Law Amendment Act is gradually bringing the labouring classes to a consideration of their proper position in the social body; and to see the propriety as well as the necessity of providing, by their own exertions, for their immediate support and for their future wants. This may be observed more particularly among domestic servants, who now seem more desirous of retaining their places and of saving some portion of their wages. This improved feeling will, I have no doubt, tend to the revival and increase of provident societies, which it should be the object of the local authorities, as well as of the neighbouring gentry, to promote.

To your last question, " what decrease, if any, is there in the burthen of the rate-payers?" I must first remark, that on looking over the list of the Unions contained in the first report of the Poor Law Commissioners, I find that, previous to the Act, the average expenditure on account of the poor for the three years preceding the Unions was 18*s.* 6*d.*, per head on the whole population, while that of Lymington Union was only 11*s.* 6*d.*; and Lymington parish in particular only 8*s.* 6*d.* So that it could not be expected that a diminution could be effected in this Union, in the same proportion as in others which had not previously been so well managed. This, coupled with the fact that considerable expense has been incurred in the establishment of the machinery of the new system (which machinery is only now coming into operation), will be sufficient to account for no very considerable reduction having been yet made in the rates. Still I can state for your satisfaction that, notwithstanding these drawbacks, the expenditure for the poor for the last year has been less than the preceding averages by about one-sixth in the parish of Lymington, and by about one-fourth in the parish of Boldie, which was one of the most burthened under the old system. It is, however, but fair to Lymington to remark, that considerable reduction had latterly been effected by the select vestry, so that the difference between the last year and the preceding one is only about one-tenth.

No doubt we might have effected a greater saving; but the object of the board of guardians has been to bring about the change from the old to new system gradually and peacefully, rather than to make a show at the outset. At the end of this year we hope to make a better report.

You are pleased to pay me a compliment as to my ability as chairman; but, with your permission I would pass it on to my colleagues, in whom I have observed an anxious desire to contribute to the successful working of the Act. Indeed the constitution of the board of guardians appears to me to be eminently calculated to secure efficient co-operation in the business of the Union, to prevent all parish jobbing, and to neutralize local prejudices and partial feelings.

I am happy to add that the prejudices which existed against the alteration in the law are gradually wearing off among all classes. No doubt you and your brother Commissioners have had much labour and anxiety in the execution of your duties; but when once the machinery is properly set a-going, I think the law will prove to be almost self-acting, and that it will more than realise the most sanguine expectations of the projectors.

Lymington, 2 May 1836. (signed) *J. Blackiston.*

Whitchurch Union.

Henry Earle, Esq., Clerk.

It is both the opinion of the board of guardians and my own, that since the formation of the Union there is decidedly a moral improvement in the labouring classes, and a great decrease of able-bodied pauperism. There is not one able-bodied male pauper in the workhouse, and scarcely any out of employ in any of the parishes in the Union; whereas before the new

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Report of Colonel *C. Ashe A'Court.*

poor law, in the parishes of Overton, Saint Mary Bourne, Whitchurch, and Hurstbourne, there were generally about 20 in each of these parishes unemployed. The master of the workhouse has not sufficient men to do the work of the garden under his care.

There has certainly in the four parishes I have mentioned and, in Ashe, been a great decrease in the amount of the poor-rates. I am rather under the mark when I say two parts in five. In Freefolk and Tufton, which are so very small, I do not think it makes any difference.

In the whole Union the saving is nearly one-half; and I think might have been more, had we not had so long and severe a winter and much illness to contend with.

Andover, May 4, 1836. (signed) *Henry Earle.*

P. S. I am sorry to say a fire happened at the Overton workhouse on Monday, which destroyed the whole of the old building and furniture there. It was purely accidental, and occasioned by a spark falling on the thatch, and the wind being so extremely high, there was no stopping the fire.

(signed) *Henry Earle.*

Havant Union.

John Barter, Esq., Chairman.

I HAVE delayed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter from a wish to answer your inquiries more satisfactorily; and particularly to have the opinion of my colleague, Mr. Norris, and of Mr. Mountain, the rector of my own parish, who has been from home: deeming them better qualified than I am to give a judgment on that very important question, the moral influence of the new system. I am happy to say their judgment, so far as relates to their own parishes, comprising together more than half the population of our Union, is favourable. They think there is a sensible increase of industry and sobriety among the labourers; more desire than formerly to secure and preserve employment under good masters, and to make provision for future wants while in the receipt of full earnings.

We have not in any case granted relief out of the house to able-bodied persons, on the plea of want of employment; and the number of them who accept the offer of relief in the house is very small; so much so, that we have not yet made use of any part of the additional building at Havant, nor perhaps shall we require it.

We continue, in some cases, the relief formerly given in money to those labourers who have large families; but have not, as far as my recollection goes, admitted any new cases of this kind. On the whole, you will, I trust, consider that we have reason to be well satisfied with the result of the new system.

I have resigned my chair to Mr. Norris, and ought therefore perhaps to transfer to him the pleasure of answering your inquiries. Having, however, consulted with him on the subject, I may, I believe, send this as the expression of his opinions, no less than of my own.

Eastleigh Emsworth, May 6, 1836. (signed) *John Barter.*

South Stoneham Union.

J. R. Best, Esq., Chairman.

THIS is, on the whole, a thinly populated Union; yet as it contains great tracts of waste land, it has always been considered unable to afford constant employment to its labouring classes. Three winters ago, I myself employed from the parish between 20 and 40 able-bodied labourers. I paid them, I believe, half their wages, the parish made up the remainder. The overseers had the management of the concern. They divided the men into two gangs, containing the married and the single; they allotted different wages to the labour of each class, and they sent a constable to stand over and superintend the whole!

Here in one view are combined the worst features of former mis-management; yet as these men were out of employment, I was considered a benefactor to the parish. In the circumstances, perhaps I was so; certainly not to myself; as the labour of the "parish men" was notoriously not worth the half wages I paid for it. Since the formation of the Union, the term of "parish men" is forgotten. Few have applied to the board of guardians for relief; of those few, but one family has entered the workhouse, the only species of relief tendered. In fact, occupiers of land have suffered rather from the want of labourers than from their superabundance. How the men have disposed of themselves I know not; for although every inducement has been held out by the guardians and by a landowner in this parish to whom they were personally well known, to persuade them to go and work for him at Manchester, at an immense increase of salary, but one family from the whole Union would accept the offer; and these have reported themselves highly pleased with the change. The mass, who have remained at home, have gradually put on the character of provident steady workmen, anxious to secure employment and anxious to satisfy their employers, and to retain the situation when secured. This statement, which I believe applies generally throughout the Union, declares sufficiently the moral improvement of the able-bodied labourers.

I have said that one able-bodied man alone with his family accepted relief in the workhouse. To this man, full employment and labourers' wages were offered; but he was known to be an unsteady character; and as he asserted his inability to find himself an untenanted cottage (which are unfortunately too scarce in most parts of this county), he remained in the workhouse with his wife and six children; thus putting his parish to a heavy weekly expense, and defying the guardians to provide for him otherwise. After considerable delay, the origin of which you are acquainted with, partition walls were erected in the yard of the workhouse, and the inmates were divided into three classes, those of men, women and children. Within one week after this separation, the individual of whom I speak sent word to the board of guardians that he had secured himself a cottage and constant employment, and requested permission to leave the house with his family. Let this anecdote prove the necessity of the classification system in the workhouses; a system to which no man in the higher

higher walks of life hesitates to subject himself, when his own advancement or the necessities of his family call on him to join his ship, his regiment, or his any other cause of separation to which he may be temporarily obliged to subject himself.

While on this question, I must state an opinion which I held, and which I think will be corroborated by those conversant with the former management of workhouses, and with the class of paupers who usually frequented them, viz. that the paupers' objection to the classification system is not founded on its consequent separation of husbands and wives from one another, but on their separation of the husbands and wives from other people. Any strictly moral person, such as some people wish to describe English paupers, would rejoice to exchange the abominable and flagitious scenes which used to take place in the workhouse of South Stoneham, or in many others, for the decent and orderly life now secured at the price of the separation of the sexes.

I regret that my inquiries cannot lead me to believe in a general diminution of bastardy cases. In some districts they are said to have decreased; in others, to have augmented since the passing of the new law. I should say that sufficient time has not yet elapsed for any sensible difference to have taken place. Whatever alteration has occurred is certainly on the side of morality; and I see every prospect of a much greater improvement. But when it is considered that only 20 months have occurred since the passing of the Act, that much less time has elapsed since it came into active local operation; when of this short space it is calculated how much was necessary for those births which the Act could not influence; how much was required for the breaking off of old connexions, for the re-education of the poor creatures to whom the old laws held out a premium on immorality, I feel that the friends of the clauses have every reason to be satisfied with the good already effected, and to look forward confidently to their more extended beneficial operation.

And here I cannot help expressing my regret that the plan of prosecuting the father should in any case be adopted. Besides its many other evils, it gives to the seducer a ready argument for the furtherance of his views, by enabling him to hold out the prospect of marriage as his only means of avoiding subsequent penalty and prosecution.

I will now answer your third question respecting the effect of the new system upon the parochial expenditure. The present expenses of the Union may be stated at, as near as may be, 700 *l.* each quarter; they amounted to 717 *l.* during the last autumn quarter, or 2,868 *l.* a year. The average expenditure of the parishes during the three years preceding the Union was 5,740 *l.* The poor-rates are, therefore, already diminished somewhat more than 50 per cent., and this has been effected without any severity or diminution of relief to the really deserving pauper, and while a contract with the person who farms the poor in the house (a system which the Poor Law Commissioners have wisely condemned, but which circumstances compelled them to sanction in one instance), raising the in-maintenance charge to much more than it would otherwise amount to.

In my statement of the expenditure of the Union, I have not included the charges necessary to render the workhouse of the single parish of South Stoneham sufficiently extensive to accommodate the paupers of all the nine parishes of the Union. This however has been trifling. An outlay of about 850 *l.* has been sufficient to suit the workhouse for the purposes of the whole of the Union, under the new system; to secure the classification of the inmates, and to furnish what additional apartments have been found necessary for the accommodation of these nine parishes, containing a population of upwards of 9,400 souls.

Nothing therefore can be more satisfactory than the operation of the new poor law in this Union, in effecting a moral improvement in the labouring classes, in abolishing entirely able-bodied pauperism and in diminishing the burthen of the poor-rates. That in another twelve-month all these good effects will be much more apparent I am fully convinced. I have bestowed much attention on the principle and on the details of the measures adopted, and am greatly gratified with the result. As Matthewes, our most intelligent relieving officer, said to me yesterday, "I always thought the law would do a great deal of good; but it has in every way done much more even than I expected."

And now let me state by what engine all this good has been principally effected;—by the workhouse system. Let this system, therefore, be carried out as far as possible; let the Commissioners, as far as their discretion and powers will permit, issue general rules, prohibiting, except in extreme cases, all relief out of the workhouse. I do trust, ere long, to see the time when outdoor relief will be allowed in no cases except in those of temporary sickness, certified to be such by the parish surgeon. Then will private charity reassert her sway; then will the able-bodied labourer be able to boast, "I support my aged parents in their cottage by my own exertions; formerly I had no motive for doing so, when my next neighbours were parish pensioners, I got no credit for my duty. It was supposed that my parents were also paupers; now every one knows that whoever is not in the workhouse is an independent man, supported by private charity, earned by his own good character, or by the cheerful exertions of his grateful children."

Let not mawkish sensibility impede the general establishment of a system capable of producing such effects. Were any traveller from a far-off country to tell us, "in that distant region the country is divided into districts; in every district is erected a large, comfortable, well-built house, superintended by a steady master and visited daily by an appointed surgeon, in which orphan children, old people and those who are unable to find employment and wages, are at once received, fed, warmed, clothed and lodged until they can provide for themselves elsewhere; in which school mistresses are maintained for the children; in which prayers are regularly performed; in which the ministers of their own faith are at all times allowed to visit them; in which the principal residents of the neighbourhood weekly meet to

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Ringwood Union.

Mr. J. E. Ridout, Chairman.

superintend the establishment and to hear their complaints:" were we to be told of such provision made for the poor in any distant region, how should we laud the beneficence of the people by whom it was made! Such is the workhouse system in England.

Botleigh Grange, 5 May 1836. (signed) *J. Richard Best.*

Respecting the moral improvement the new poor law has caused in this Union, I think it is quite equal to what we might expect. I find the able-bodied paupers seek out for work more than they did; and having once obtained it, they take great care to keep it. The next time I write to you I hope to give a more satisfactory account. On the other side I have shown the number of able-bodied paupers out of work and receiving parish pay when the Union was first formed, and the number out of work and receiving parish pay at this day, showing a diminution of 82 in the Union.

Owing to the board of guardians acting unanimously together, and being determined to get rid of the idle and profligate, which they never did until this last election. On Monday the 18th April we ordered able-bodied paupers with their families, amounting to 65, into the poorhouse, and only two went. These two were applicants to go in. On Monday May 2 we ordered 10 more, and they still refuse to go. We have room in our poorhouse for 50 more paupers; there being at present only 80, and not a young man with a family amongst them. Of course a diminution of poor-rates must follow. I hope the next time you visit us, you will have reason to be pleased with our proceedings.

Return alluded to.

	20 Oct. 1835.	2 May 1836.
Ibsley	20	2
Ringwood	40	3
Harbridge	1	–
Ellingham	25	–
Burley	5	–
	87	5

Ringwood, 4 May 1836. (signed) *J. E. Ridout.*

Alton Union.

C. Trimmer, Esq., Chairman.

Throughout the last winter the applications for relief by able-bodied men have been exceedingly limited in number, and for the most part confined to cases of illness, and persons with large families.

To the latter relief has been often afforded in clothing; and offers have in many cases been made to take a child or two into the house. In the few instances where these offers have been accepted, the parents have all acknowledged the improvement of their children in the house, but have seldom permitted them to remain beyond a few weeks. The admissions of able-bodied men to the workhouse have been rare, and few have remained for any length of time. At this time I believe I can safely state that (cases of illness excepted) there is no able-bodied man within the Union receiving relief from the poor-rates for himself or his family in or out of the house. The following extracts from the Union accounts will show the diminution in the burthen of the rate-payers:

	£.
Relief to paupers in and out of the house, from the first day of payment by the Union to the 25th March 1836, adding a proportionate sum for the 15 days intervening between the 25th March 1835 and the Union, showing in the whole a full year's relief	3,410
Establishment expenditure within the year	1,780
Total expenditure £.	5,190
Deduct extra establishment expenditure for new fittings, furniture and other expenses beyond the usual yearly expenses, about	750
Total fair yearly expenditure, from 25 March 1835 to 25 March 1836	4,440

	£.
The average yearly expenditure of the different parishes prior to the Union, for the three years preceding 25 March 1835, as returned to the Poor Law Commissioners, appears to have been	12,680
Deduct expenditure for the last year	4,440
Difference (about 65 per cent.) £.	8,240

Very material improvements in the management and consequent reduction in the expenditure of Alton, and other parishes in the Union, had been effected in the year ending 1835, and having very greatly contributed to the well-working of the new system, had led to a confident hope of a favourable result at the end of the year. The result, as before shown, must however have far exceeded the anticipations of the most sanguine; and it is highly gratifying to reflect that the change has been effected without the slightest manifestation of general irritation

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irritation or ill-feeling amongst the labouring classes. This circumstance alone speaks well for them as a body; and as, from every account I can collect from the guardians and others, they are greatly improved as to industry and general outward propriety of conduct, we must hope that a gradual moral improvement is also in progress.

In closing these observations I cannot too strongly advert to the moderation and unanimity which have characterised the proceedings of the board of guardians, or to the zealous and cordial co-operation afforded by the occupiers of land within the Union, who (with very few exceptions) have employed their full number of hands throughout the winter. To these circumstances (particularly the last) I attribute in a great measure the success of this Union, and the entire absence of any disposition to violence or outrage.

Alton, 51 May 836. (signed) *C. Trimmer.*

Catherington Union.

R. D. Pritchard, Esq.

I HASTEN to state to you the effect of the new system, the cessation of out-door relief, which commenced on the first instant.

The moral condition of the poor I should say was decidedly improved by the bill, as it calls forth a spirit of independence in the well disposed, and the influence of example on the worthless must have a beneficial result.

Pauperism is decidedly abated, having now not one able-bodied male pauper in the house. The poor-rates upon the Union have decreased full one-third during this last year, notwithstanding many expenses which will not have to occur again, as the new house is nearly completely furnished with the various articles which were indispensable.

I now turn to the result of Tuesday's proceedings, our general day of meeting, and of course of appeal. The applications were numerous, and some cases of great hardship were brought before us, but we acted upon your suggestions, as well as from our own feelings, and have taken one or two of the children of each family (that we felt were incapable of supporting them without relief, and were honest and industrious) into the house, consequently we have an influx of 14 children.

There are two or three cases respecting widows of great hardship, and we are now in deliberation respecting them; but, on the whole, after minutely investigating each case, all went off very quietly, and the out-relief was stopped without any great degree of murmuring.

It is our united, anxious, and unanimous endeavour to soften whatever is amiss, and to deal with firmness and justice in all other cases, but it is not easy to overcome long established habits; and it will require some time for all parties to fall into regular harness, and it will require much kindness and forbearance to make an unpalatable measure work well. It is with perfect satisfaction I inform you of the unvarying unanimity of our board, and of the constant endeavour and wish to give satisfaction to the Poor Law Commissioners, as well as to do justice with all those with whom they are concerned. Our new house is very comfortable, and the new dietary has been adopted.

Keydell, near Horndean, 6 May 1836. (signed) *R. D. Pritchard.*

Kingsclere Union.

Rev.
J. H. Ashworth,
Chairman.

I SHOULD have answered your letter of the 28th of April sooner had I not been anxious to correct or strengthen my own opinions upon the points you submit to my consideration, by personal communication with other members of our board. It gives me pleasure to state generally that I know no point in which the Poor Law Amendment Act has not proved beneficial to the community around us. In a pecuniary light the savings have been considerable, particularly in the large parishes; and it was my anxious wish to have been able to forward to you particulars of these savings, but these I could not exactly ascertain, the Union not having been in operation quite a twelvemonth. I may state generally the decrease of the poor-rates in this district, on an average of three years preceding the Union, at between 33 and 40 per cent. Of course we are to consider that our workhouse being too small for the accommodation of more than a few people and children, we have been obliged to give relief in money and goods in a great number of cases, which otherwise would never have come before us.

With regard to the moral character of the people, short as the period is since the Act came into operation, I can with confidence assert that an improvement is visible; and in this opinion I am borne out by the valuable testimony of the neighbouring clergy. Able-bodied pauperism has astonishingly diminished. The prosecutions at our petty sessions are neither so numerous nor so serious; and the bitterness of disappointed expectation is rapidly wearing away.

By boldly removing that pernicious and unnatural prop of parochial allowances, I am convinced the national feeling of independence will revive and daily take deeper root. It is however premature, perhaps, to attribute all the improvement visible to the operation of the new law. It may be owing in part to the improved condition of the farmer, who paying fewer rates, can employ more labour. But still incalculable good has certainly arisen from the new measure. The labourer finding he has no certain allowance in money from the parish to depend upon in an emergency, fearing the scrutiny of a board of guardians acquainted with the individual habits, circumstances and capabilities of each member of the respective parishes, and above all, disliking the rules and regulations of the workhouse, begins to rely more upon his own exertions. I doubt not that the ultimate effect will be, as the framers of the Act anticipated, that a labourer in good employ will cast his eye to the future, and feeling the alternative that awaits him, will prefer laying by a provision in the day of abundance, to any reliance upon the meagre comforts of the workhouse.

Labour, I am happy to say, has been abundant during the past winter. That an increased rate of wages will ere long be generally demanded, and as generally conceded, I am convinced

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vinced of, not only from my own experience as an agriculturist, but from the surmises of the farmers of this district, with whom I am in the habit of constant intercourse.

When our house is completed and another winter is gone, I trust that it will be in my power to address you more in the detail. Feeling that at present I could not do so with certainty, I thought it better not to make the attempt. You will be happy to learn that our affairs progress quietly; that the contract for the workhouse is completed, and that we shall be in a condition to secure the full benefits of the new law early in the ensuing autumn.

Barley Wood, 7th May 1836. (signed) *J. Harvey Ashworth.*

Basingstoke Union.

W. J, Sclater, Esq., Chairman.

It seems to me very early days for making anything like a report as to the success of this Union, inasmuch as we have not yet begun to enjoy the advantage of a workhouse on the one hand, or to feel the heavy cost of it on the other.

As to the moral improvement, it seems to be the prevailing opinion, in which I concur, that the labourers in general have become more thankful for what little relief they do receive, more submissive to their employers, and more anxious to obtain employment; but as to the chastity of the female sex, it is much too soon, I think, to pretend to collect any facts for forming a judgment on that point.

There certainly has been some considerable decrease in able-bodied pauperism, especially amongst the single men, of whom, scarcely any have received relief this last winter; but we must, in candour, admit that such improvement is partly to be attributed to the new sources of employment presented by the railway, and by other public and some private works.

It became necessary, during the very wet and unhealthy weather that has prevailed this spring, to grant relief to labourers with large families more extensively than during the winter or autumn; and this circumstance, coupled with the remarkable advance in provisions, will operate against our expected diminution of expenditure for the last quarter (which, however, is nevertheless again reduced by, I think, about 300*l.* in the relief expenditure, but the abstracts are not yet complete); but in the quarter ending Christmas last, it seems by the calculations of our auditor, that we effected a diminution of 909*l.*, as compared with the corresponding quarter of 1834, as I presume you are already aware of by our quarterly abstracts.

Upon the whole I suppose we cannot boast of a reduced expenditure quite so loudly as they do in some other Unions; but I think this apparent failure may be explained without any admission of any want of exertion on our parts, for on comparing expenditure with population, I find that in most of the Sussex Unions, and in some of the Hants and other Unions, the expenditure amounted to from 20*s.* to 30*s.* a head under the old system, whereas our expenditure was little more than 17*s.* a head upon a like comparison; from which I contend that in our Union there is less immediate capability of reduction.

I find reason to rejoice more especially in two important arrangements of the new system. First, the distribution of relief, and the visiting of the sick by the relieving officers. This plan seems to work admirably well, considering that the officers have scarcely yet had time to become fully acquainted with the previous habits and characters of all the paupers; but which want of experience I have endeavoured to supply by inquiries of the parish guardians. I have noticed the officer of my own district taking his rounds through the villages on other than pay-days, and for the express purpose of visiting the sick. This is what it should be. The other arrangement that pleases me, is the medical department; for although some of the medical officers have been occasionally called to account by the board, and by some individual guardians, myself amongst the number, yet I am persuaded the invalid poor are more carefully and more regularly attended than they were under the old system. I may also add, that the aged and infirm have, in several parishes, received increased allowances.

Hoddington House, Odiham, 9 May 1836. (signed) *W. J. Sclater.*

Hartley Wintney Union.

W. Seymour, Esq., Chairman.

I am sorry I could not at a more early day furnish you with the information requested in your favours of the 28th ultimo and the 6th instant, having waited in expectation of procuring from the different parishes in the Union something like a correct statement of their expenditure in the two years ending at Lady-day 1835 and 1836; but from the very incorrect manner in which some of the parish accounts have been kept previous to the commencement of the Union, I have not been able to obtain an accurate statement; but, on the whole, I can venture to assert, that the saving in the year ending 25th March 1836, compared with the year previous, has been from 35 to 40 per cent., and consequently the poor-rates have been reduced in a similar proportion.

The new poorhouse is now nearly completed, and the paupers are removed from the Odiham and Crondall houses into it. There are now in the house 18 men, 16 women, 16 boys and 24 girls, making a total of 74. There were usually in the three poorhouses of Odiham, Crondall, and Hartley Wintney, from 85 to 90 paupers, besides such as were living in the 10 smaller parishes of the Union, in parish or other cottages, at the parish expense.

We have no able-bodied male paupers in the house; nor are there any out of employment throughout the Union.

As it regards cases of bastardy, we have hitherto had but few applications for relief; and we find the women very reluctant in accepting the offer of the house; and I have no doubt but that the new system will operate very beneficially in reducing the number of cases of that kind. As to the moral improvement of the labouring poor, I am fully persuaded that already some benefit is perceptible, and that the new plan will ultimately tend greatly to raise their character and condition from a state of pauperism to that of comparative independence and comfort. On the whole, I feel satisfied that the new system, when carried fully into

into effect throughout the kingdom, will be productive of the greatest benefit, and will exceed the most sanguine expectation of its most zealous promoters and friends.

Odiham, 13 May 1836. (signed) *Wm. Seymour.*

As the workhouse has not yet been erected in the Stockbridge Union, it is clear that a full and fair experiment of the principles on which the new poor law is founded cannot have yet been made. Nevertheless, I consider that, protected by those "shadows which coming events sometimes throw before them," further aided by a tone of feeling which has seemed lately pretty generally to prevail as to the necessity of some alteration or improvement in the old system, and still more from being emancipated from that jurisdiction which heretofore cramped, fettered and browbeat any attempt to stem or check that system, we have been able to establish a principle, and found proceedings thereon, from which most salutary and important changes have resulted. The principle we contend for, and on which all hinges, is, that parish relief can only so be administered as to be worth acceptance in a state of comparative destitution; never as a substitute for the wages to be obtained by labour. Thus, if, where a necessity arises of granting relief, you take care to limit the relief in amount for each mouth to five-sevenths of what a labourer is able from his earnings to apply to the maintenance of each individual of a family of an average number (say five in number), it is clear that till the number of the applicant's family exceeds seven, the relief can never exceed the sum he might earn in wages; and that, therefore, till he has seven mouths to provide for (and this number is not often attained, and, of course, seldom exceeded), it must be his interest to work for a master, and not hang on the parish; and it is moreover plain, that as long as this rule is abided by, any increase in the number of mouths (up to seven) must be met by a corresponding retrenchment in the sustenance of each member of the family, and thus discourage improvident marriages.

You will no doubt clearly see, that it is essential to this principle that parish relief should not rise with a rise in prices till wages have previously risen. If this be not adhered to, you instantly (in the old fashion) raise the pauper above the labourer.

From these proceedings very considerable and almost immediate improvement in the relation between master and labourer was found to result, and an anxiety to keep place, instead of a total indifference in the matter, or rather an anxiety to lose it, shortly became desirable. Never was illustration of "no man can serve two masters," more clearly experienced than by the thrivers under the old system. "Many and good words" were in vain: the parish bid against the capitalist, but, as would appear, to nullify St. Paul's injunction, "We command, if they will not work, neither shall they eat," and to reverse the condition of our species, "In the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread." The change of feeling which has now taken place, has of course very much diminished the number of superfluous (let me rather say of what appeared superfluous) hands; and consequently (with no doubt some other causes in aid) considerably reduced the amount of the rates. I am sanguine in hoping, that in this diminution of rates, and more especially in an emancipation from the plague of locusts (we may call them) who used to be occasionally quartered on the farmers, (as what they called stem men), the capitalists will shortly be enabled at once to increase wages, and also to absorb the still superfluous hands; and I am still more confident in anticipating, that in this increase both of labourers and of wages, the capitalist shall find, not a diminution, but an increase of profits; inasmuch as in the improving character of the peasantry he may look for every sixpence to return to him with profit, instead, as has of late years been too often the case, of being wrung from him to his loss. We may further hope, as the man improves, so too may the master, and thus cause and effect mutually acting and reacting on each other, shall, under the blessing of Providence, work out a happy increase of the comforts, the harmony, and the satisfaction of both classes.

I think we have reason to complain of the supineness of some of the landlords in this vicinity, as to the operation of a measure working so much to their benefit; but I must add, that were it not my sincere conviction that the principles of the Bill fairly worked out, shall conduce even more to the physical and moral welfare of the people, than to the protecting the estates of the landlords, I for one would never have touched it with one of my fingers.

I subjoin some figures, showing the amount, and consequently diminution of the rates, &c.; as also a calculation of the number and the maintenance cost of the still remaining able-bodied paupers.

The amount of the rates of the Union, on an average of the three years ending Lady-day 1835, was 5,223 *l.* ÷ 2 = 2,611 *l.* The amount of the expenditure on the poor-relief for the quarter ending December 1835, was - - - - - - - - £. 838 4 6
For ditto to Lady-day 1836 - - - - - - - - 893 3 8½

i. e. for the half-year to Lady-day - - - 1,731 8 2½
The establishment charges for the half-year are - - - - - 214 – –

Making - - - £. 1,945 – –

Then the old half-year = 2,611 — 1,945 = 666 *l.* saving on the half year, or 1,332 *l.* per annum, 25 per cent. on the former expenditure.

The books of the relieving officers seem to show, that of the 1,731 *l.* before quoted, not more than from 14 to 15 per cent. has been expended on able-bodied paupers, say to 250 *l.*

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in the half year, which does not give an average of quite 10*l.* per week; *i. e.* not the wages of more than 22 to 23, or 24 men.

It would appear then, that from 20 to 25 (at outside) men are all we have to absorb in a district of 42,000 acres, worked probably by about 1,250 hands, at about wages per annum 34,500*l.*, *i. e.* per half year to 17,250*l.* That is, to find (master's) employment for one additional fiftieth of hands, at an addition of from a seventieth to a fiftieth of the present aggregate of wages; also to about one additional labourer to 2,000 acres. All this, I think, affords good hopes that our able-bodied paupers shall shortly disappear.

Ashley, 9 May 1836. (signed) *R. C. Taunton.*

Havant Union.

Rev. W. Norris, Chairman.

The diminution in the amount of expense for relief speaks for itself.

	£.
The average expenditure of our Union for a year, on an estimate of three years ending 1834, deducting all charges not actually connected with the relief of the poor, was	4,484
We have made up our accounts for three-quarters of a year only, therefore deduct one-third	1,121
There remains as the average expenditure of three-quarters of a year under the old system	3,363
Our expenditure on the poor since we have been in Union three-quarters of a year, has been	2,144
Showing, as saved on three-quarters of a year, compared with former years	1,219

But this is not all; for in commencing the new system, in purchasing furniture for the workhouse, clothes for the paupers, stationery, &c. which will never be required to the same extent again, we have expended nearly 300*l.* Our prospect, therefore, of future saving is very considerable. It is, moreover, gratifying to see, that the particulars in which we have saved are chiefly casual applicants, parish labour and illegitimate children; diminishing but little the amount of relief to the really necessitous, the aged and infirm. If you are desirous of further information on this subject, I must refer you to Mr. Shawe, whose unremitting services, I am happy to say, are still preserved to the Union as vice-chairman; and whose inquiries into all the details of the business connected with the district are most valuable and indefatigable.

I proceed now to answer your more important question, whether any moral improvement has been produced, under the new system, on the labouring classes. This, you may be assured, is the point to which my attention has been most anxiously directed; for no idea of mere money saving would have induced me to undertake the office of guardian of my parish, or to have hazarded, without the prospect of some real moral benefit, a popularity which no man despises, but which a clergyman chiefly values, because the success of his ministerial duties is much influenced by the estimation in which he is held. After much personal observation, then, much inquiry and some conflicting testimony, I am led to the conclusion that there is, decidedly, less drunkenness, I would hope less profligacy and improvidence; and that there is more civility and willingness to look out for work on the part of the labouring classes. I may notice also in my own parish, a diminution of imprudent marriages. It must, however, be borne in mind, that we have not yet been in Union a year; therefore it is difficult to give a very definitive opinion. I fear that in the course of the winter some occasional suffering has been experienced; but not by the most valuable or prudent members of the community, and not of any long continuance; and I notice this, to remark a growing sympathy among the poorer classes for the sufferings of each other.

One circumstance which called forth this most desirable feeling, fell under my own notice, thus confirming Dr. Chalmers's opinion in his evidence given before the Committee of the House of Commons, on the state of the poor in Ireland, which you will perhaps forgive me for quoting: "3016. I should like to make one observation here, on the great credulity which prevails, with regard to the possibility of the retracing process taking effect in England. People reason on the want of natural affection, and the want of natural kindness between poor and poor; now I think that these affections exist in as great strength in England, as they do in any other country, and that the reason why they are not exercised, is because they are accompanied by a persuasion, in the minds of the people, that the objects of those affections are otherwise provided for, and that when so, there is no call for their exercise; instead of saying that the system of pauperism has extinguished these good feelings in the breasts of Englishmen, I should rather say it has operated as a check upon the exercise of their feelings; but the moment the check is removed, they will, by instant elasticity, break forth again, and be as vigorously exercised on their appropriate objects in England, as in any other country in the world."

On the subject of our poorhouses I am desirous of making a few remarks. Our population amounts, according to the last census, to 6,398. The greatest number of persons of all classes, which we have at any one time had in them, have, I believe I am correct in saying, never exceeded 60. At this time the number is 56. The only married couple, at present, is an old man, with a wife old and extremely infirm; they are no otherwise separated than is necessary, in consequence of the woman's illness.

Since the formation of our Union, we have had only three other married couples, who were young people, and on whom I will make no other remark than that they were just the sort

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sort of persons who might be expected to be inmates of a workhouse. I may therefore say that the imputation of the separation of married people, as far as my observation extends, falls to the ground. I cannot, however, make quite so good a report, as I did when I last saw you, of the state of the house at Emsworth, where the old people are. They have been deprived, under an order of the Commissioners, of a small quantity of beer and bread, which we had allowed them, above their present allowance, which has made them discontented. I cannot venture to say that they are enduring any very material deprivation by the diminution, or that they are not still treated with kindness, but I own I am sorry it has been enforced, as I really think that we were making a good moral impression on the public, by a little additional allowance to the aged, whose poverty is certainly involuntary; and that we are losing some moral influence by not having the power to show a more marked difference between the treatment of the old and the young. I hope also you will forgive me, if I request (and I know that I speak the sentiments of most of my colleagues) that we may not yet be deprived of the discretionary power which we have hitherto exercised, of making allowances in kind to the labouring classes, on account of their families. I own I deprecate precipitation. We, on the whole, are going on well; and, I believe, are all determined not to lose sight of the end, viz., the abolition of pauperism; but we all feel that it is to be effected, most safely, by degrees. I am not afraid of any popular out-break; but I should almost equally dread a gloomy distrust of all our proceedings, and a continued suspicion that our aim was only the saving of money, at whatever expense of suffering.

I trust you will pardon this expression of my opinion, which has been called forth by my real anxiety for the well-working of a law, the principle of which, I am satisfied, is essentially merciful and just.

Warblington Rectory, 7 May 1836. *William Norris.*

Hursley Union.

Sir W. Heathcote, Bart., Chairman.

I HAVE the pleasure to inform you, 1st, that the expenditure has been reduced, as you will indeed perceive by the quarterly abstracts; 2d, that able-bodied pauperism, which had been before the Union entirely extinguished at Hursley and nearly so at Otterbourne, is now equally unknown in the whole Union.

Your third question, as to improvement in the moral character of the population, is not one which I can so readily answer, because the population of Hursley, which alone comes immediately under my observation, has been in no respect affected by the Union; the principles of the new law having been in full operation before. I am, however, enabled to say, that, in comparison with the state of things before I introduced the new system some years ago, there has been an improvement in industry and, I hope, in sobriety; and that, with every disposition to speak cautiously and to make allowance for other co-operating causes, I think part of that improvement has been occasioned by the change in the system of administering the poor law.

Hursley Park, 23 May 1836. (signed) *William Heathcote.*

COMMUNICATIONS received from the several Boards of Guardians in the County of *Wilts.*

Westbury Union.

T. H. H. Phipps, Jun., Esq., Chairman.

I HAVE much pleasure in furnishing you with an account of our Union, its progress and future prospects, premising only that we are yet too young to be judged either for good or for bad, or at the best to be considered only as children of fair promise, requiring more trials than we have yet experienced, and a continuance of the same fostering care we have to this time enjoyed, before we can claim to have it said, that in us the new system and the soundness of its principles have been fairly carried out and its advantages realised.

You are aware that the third district, comprising the parishes of North Bradley and Southwick, was, at the commencement of our Union, suffering most intensely from all the degrading evils of pauperism. To this district, therefore, the board of guardians directed their first and most particular supervision; and it is not exaggeration to say, with most miraculous success. Able-bodied pauperism has ceased in the whole district; the moral improvement of the population is most conspicuous, and the burthen of the rate-payers reduced 50 per cent. I give you this, not only as the result of my own observations, but at our meeting yesterday I put to the relieving officer and the special guardians of this district, questions suggested by your letter of the 27th. The reply of the former (and he is a man of great intelligence) was, that he had observed a great improvement in the moral state and general bearing of the poor, particularly the young able-bodied labourers; the whole of whom during the last winter had been in employ found by themselves in their own or the adjoining parishes. Formerly, he added, these individuals sought no work during the winter, but preferred vegetating at home on out-relief and idleness, their only other resources being thieving and poaching. And in bringing him to facts in support of the above statement, he told me that last year (1835), during the months of March and April, he, as assistant overseer of Bradley and Southwick, had on his books, receiving permanent out-relief, 64 able-bodied paupers; while during the corresponding months of this year (1836) there has not been a single able-bodied pauper, in health, in either parish receiving relief. The guardians of the district, to the extent of their experience, confirmed this statement; and added, that their labourers were much improved as workmen, anxious to please and fearful of losing their places; and that in all respects they had reason to be satisfied with and were grateful for the introduction of the new system into their parishes.

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The first district, Westbury, was, as you aware, in a sound and healthy state at the establishment of the Union: it continues so; of which I cannot give you better evidence than the fact that not a single person out of a manufacturing population of nearly 8,000, has been committed for trial since the Union: our trade is excellent, and we have no able-bodied pauper receiving relief.

Of the second district I have but little personal knowledge. The result of my inquiries of the relieving officer and district guardians is, that they find the population much improved in spirit, receiving the relief now accorded them with thanks and gratitude, instead, as formerly, always with discontent, and frequently with threats, when not equal to their expectations. Able-bodied pauperism has equally decreased in this district. Last year (1835), from Christmas to Lady-day, it ranged from 25 to 40; while in the corresponding quarter of this year, a few only with very large families have received out-relief. The remainder are in employ found by themselves, or subsisting on their own resources, refusing relief both in the workhouse or by way of loan.

The pecuniary condition of the whole Union stands thus: The expense per head, calculated by the average expenditure of the Union for the three years ending Easter 1835, amounted to 14*s.* 9*d.*, while our present expenditure, calculating the whole year by the last quarter, but which, as the winter quarter is the most expensive, does not exceed 7*s.* 9¼*d.* also per head.

I cannot conclude without a few words in favour of the excellent conduct and spirit of the poor throughout the Union. I have not heard of a single case of injury to person or property perpetrated by them, though examples of both, at no great distance, have not been wanted to stimulate them to similar atrocious Acts. How powerful, therefore, is their claim to every assistance which we can render them! This, as a resident individual, I feel deeply; and I hope by the aid of a loan society, which we have just established, and a friendly society which we have in prospect, very materially, at no distant time, to reward them.

Leighton House, 30 April 1836. (signed) *T. H. H. Phipps.*

Highworth and Swindon Union.

Colonel Vilett, Chairman.

1st. As to the moral improvement of the labouring classes.

This is chiefly perceptible in the relations of master and servant. All the labourers are now anxious to obtain permanent employment, and are therefore more studious than formerly to please their masters by respectful and diligent conduct. Their carelessness as to whether they work or not, is already vanished.

2d. The decrease of able-bodied pauperism.

This is felt throughout the Union. In the town of Swindon, where I reside, I can speak from observation. We had constantly groups of from 10 to 20 saucy and idle young men standing at the corners of our streets and molesting the passers. These familiar faces are principally gone. They have found employment, which formerly they would even refuse when offered, preferring the parish allowance in money with idleness, and a chance of picking up something else in the week, often dishonestly. Some labourers of one parish of the Union have found work at a distance. Wages are advancing, and the farmers are already fearing a shortness of hands.

3d. The diminution in the burthens of the rate-payers.

This is already surprising. The average annual expenditure of this Union for three years ending 1835, was 11,387 *l.*, or 2,846 *l.* 15*s.* a quarter.

In the quarter from Christmas to Lady-day, our expenditure, including salaries, &c., is only 1,545 *l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*; from this should be deducted different sums paid for furniture and repairs to workhouse (being an extraordinary expenditure), amounting to 208 *l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, which will leave a saving on the quarter of 1,509 *l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*

This has not certainly been effected without some few cases of individual suffering, which were unavoidable, as those paupers would not come to the workhouse.

We relieve the aged and infirm liberally, but show the able-bodied that he must resort to his own resources. Altogether there is but one opinion as to the benefit conferred on this Union by the Poor Law Act.

It must be borne in mind that this saving has been effected during the winter quarter, consequently a greater benefit is anticipated in the ensuing quarters.

(signed) *Thomas Vilett.*

Mere Union.

F. Seymour, Esq., Clerk.

In answer to your letter received yesterday, I forwarded it immediately to our chairman, Mr. Grove, at Zeals House, who returned it to me last evening with the following observations, which he desired I would communicate to you. "In answer to Colonel A'Court's interrogatories respecting the Union at Mere, Mr. Seymour may with truth say, the labouring classes are all in work, and seemingly satisfied, without any longer being dependent upon parish pay, and apparently much improved since the Union commenced."

As to the general working of the new system, there appears but one opinion of its general benefit, particularly decreasing the able-bodied paupers; for in this place alone, where there used to be at least 50 or 60 lounging about and looking at the parish officers, there has not been one seen for several months; and persons living in the town remark, that Mere does not seem now to be the same place; as 20 and 30 idlers would be standing about at the market-place, and now not one to be seen.

As to the diminution of rates, there is, I consider, a decrease of at least 30 per cent.; and I have no doubt when the Act has been another year in operation, it will be considerably more. And I may say that the system, in my opinion, has had a beneficial effect on the

the morals of the labouring classes, and been a prevention to cases of bastardy, and to juvenile marriages of the poor.

In 1832-33, in this parish from 60 to 75 paupers used to be at the parish quarry weekly; in 1834 and 1835 from 30 to 50 weekly; since the Union from 3 to 12; and now none.

Mere, 29 April 1836. (signed) *F. Seymour.*

Devizes Union.

W. E. Tugwell, Esq. Clerk.

The system is certainly beneficial, and will in time relieve the rate-payers, and improve the morals of the lower classes.

It has already made the labourers more civil to their employers, more careful to retain their situations, and much more industrious in their work; for they now find, that when discharged by one master they must obtain another, or the means of living without labour.

The beer-houses are far less popular than heretofore, and large families considered more a burthen than a blessing.

The small parishes will save very little, as their contribution towards the establishment expenses exceeds the saving on the pauper relief. The large parishes have already experienced a considerable saving. Urchfont will save full 400*l.* a year.

There are but few able-bodied paupers out of employment, and those few men of idle habits or bad character. Many are going to the railroads.

I think many parishes will improve under the control of the Union.

There are still many labourers anxious to emigrate, and would be sent abroad if the rate-payers were certain that the expenses of emigration would not be taken into calculation when the next average is made.

Devizes, 4 May 1836. (signed) *W. E. Tugwell.*

Pewsey Union.

Col. Wroughton, Chairman.

Our Union proceeds as well as its best friend could wish. It is the general opinion of the farmers that there is a greater desire on the part of the work people to procure regular employment; they are more civil and anxious to give satisfaction to their masters.

Almost all, indeed all, able-bodied men are in full work, as well as a very large proportion of women and girls. The paymasters as well as the parents now see the advantage it will be to both to give them occupation.

Our rates are very much reduced; and in some parishes, where the people used to be paid at the poor table, the reduction is full one half.

Our wages in this part of the Union have risen, and task-work for the parents of large families is generally adopted.

Stowell, 4 May 1836. (signed) *G. W. Wroughton.*

Calne Union.

Nath. Atherton, Esq., Chairman.

I will state very shortly the principles on which the Calne guardians have acted in carrying into effect the Poor Law Bill, and the result of my observations with reference to the moral improvement of the labouring classes, the decrease of able-bodied pauperism, and the diminution of the burthens of the rate-payers.

As to old and impotent persons.—Having ascertained that an applicant is old, unable to work, of good character, and a fitting object of charity, we drive no bargain by the threat of the workhouse; nor do we insist on food relief out of the house; we rather consult the feeling of the applicant, and make him grateful by giving him relief in money: to an old man or woman, 2*s.* 6*d.* a week; to an old man and his wife, 4*s.* 6*d.* In cases where these old persons have relatives able to maintain them, we refuse money relief and offer the workhouse, in the hope of shaming such relatives into proper feelings of humanity and kindness.

As to widows with young families.—We act on similar principles towards widows with young families, on the ground that their misfortune is brought on them by no fault of their own, and that there would be no good policy in driving them and their children into a workhouse. A pauper, on entering a workhouse, should have a sense of degradation about him. The loss of a husband should not subject a poor woman to that mortification.

As to orphan children.—The girls we get out to service as fast as we can, giving them clothes and a proper fitting out by way of encouragement. The boys we get employed by the farmers at money wages; and in lieu of subjecting them to the degradation of a workhouse, we authorize the relieving officer to pay 6*d.* a week for their lodging and washing, until they are enabled to earn sufficient wages for their maintenance.

To single men and women able-bodied.—We refuse all money relief, and get rid of them by the offer of the house.

To girls with bastard children.—We give a gallon of bread per week for the sustenance of the child, taking no steps whatever against the father, because the remedy at present would be worse than the disease. The present state of the law may perhaps make the poor girls more cautious, though I am not sure of that. I am satisfied, however, that the men are brutalised by it, so that there is no good policy in teaching men that they may seduce young women, if they can, with impunity.

As to able-bodied men, with families.—From the formation of the Union we have done every thing in our power to discourage the making up of wages; but we have been careful not to make the workhouse the means of reducing wages. An able-bodied man is expected to maintain a wife and four children without any relief in aid; but during the past winter we have given a gallon of bread for the fifth child, on the principle that a man, his wife and five children cannot exist as they ought on 7*s.* The guardians feel that the abuse of relief in aid has been brought about by the magistrates and farmers themselves; and that the able-bodied man has been in a measure ruined by the mistaken policy of those above him. They have refused, and they will in future refuse, to offer the workhouse in all cases of able-bodied

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applicants; from the conviction that the offer of emigration or migration to other districts, or the occupation of land on the allotment plan to the able-bodied man of good character, should precede the stern offer of the workhouse. In some cases the guardians have understood that all these alternatives have been refused to able-bodied applicants, the farmers admitting that they have not too many men, provided they can get their labour at a low rate, and that they hope by the offer of the workhouse to succeed in that object. The Calne guardians would act on no such principle as that.

As to moral improvement.—The men are more civil and obliging, more anxious to keep their places, and less inclined to improvidence and intemperance, than they were before the Poor Law Bill came into operation. Almost all the able-bodied men have found employment during the winter.

The rates have been reduced pretty nearly one-half, compared with what they were four years ago, and before any attempt was made to place the administration of relief on the right footing.

Calne, 28 April 1836. (signed) *Nathaniel Atherton.*

Warminster Union.

John Ravenhill, Esq., Chairman.

One very decided result of the introduction of the new poor law in this Union, and I may include all the surrounding neighbourhood, is, that the labourers are more industrious, more civil, and much more anxious to retain their places, and to keep in work when they have it, than they used to be. All hereabout this is universal. I can make this statement very positively from my own observations previous to the arrival of your letter, and the fullest inquiries made of all the guardians and principal farmers, since I heard that you were anxious for information on this point. Whether it may be termed a moral improvement you are a better judge than myself. I fear that it springs from no very exalted principle, but from a conviction that it is the most easy and advantageous course of conduct; but good habits once engendered and persisted in may, nay, must, eventually give birth to better feelings; and we may then be enabled to speak, with truth, of the great moral improvement of the labouring classes. Thus far I can report favourably. In some other respects our progress is not so satisfactory to myself. Able-bodied pauperism still exists extensively. We have now 50 able-bodied labourers in the Union requiring employment to be found for them, though we give them heavy task work. They chiefly belong to Heytesbury, Sutton and Warminster. In the Corsley district the people are well employed; also in the Deverills and Horningsham; and in the division of Codford, &c., in eight parishes, there are but three able-bodied men wanting work. Our board feels a strong disinclination to send men with families to our present workhouse; but we must do so, and speedily, if the evil is to be abated. We adjourned last night till Thursday, when we have a meeting for the express purpose of considering these cases; and I hope a week hence I may be able to advise you of some amendment on this head.

Even with our present workhouse, able-bodied pauperism should be almost annihilated; and when our new workhouse can be brought to bear, and the attention and exertions of the neighbourhood are properly directed to the subject, I feel very positive it will entirely disappear. I shall be much disappointed if this is not fully and speedily accomplished; and the people, masters and men, in all respects better off. Wages still continue very low, 8*s.*; and in several paishes but 7*s.*, being the current rate.

As our Union has been in operation little more than one quarter in any of the parishes, and in some but a few weeks, it is scarcely fair, I think, to take the accounts of the first quarter as any guide for the future. Many items of expense are included in the closing of the old and the introduction of the new system, which will not again occur; but pauperism has decreased, and is still diminishing; and no name is allowed to stand upon the books without a thorough investigation of the case; and in the end this must lead to a very great reduction of the rates.

I believe the people generally are satisfied with what we are doing, except upon one or two points. Where relief is applied for, and the party has a cottage, we require them to sell or mortgage the house. This is, I hear, considered a great grievance; and in some instances where children are called upon to maintain their parents, they strongly object to it. We do all we can when parties appeal to the board, to convince them that every consideration is given to their cases; and when I tell you that the relieving officers' lists are under investigation, never less than seven or eight and sometimes even ten hours at our weekly meetings, you will readily believe that great anxiety is felt, not only that the poor shall have justice done to them, but that they themselves, where relief is refused, shall leave the board satisfied with our decisions; and, I think, for the most part they are so.

Warminster, 3 May 1836. (signed) *John Ravenhill.*

Wilton Union.

T. Thring, Esq., Clerk.

I delayed to reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo, inquiring as to the general working of the new poor law system within this Union, until I had first met the board and ascertained the opinions of the guardians on the moral condition of the labouring classes, about which you more particularly inquire.

I am happy to report to you the unqualified and unanimous testimony of the guardians on this head. They consider the moral improvement most decisive.

The insubordination and ill feeling which was too commonly manifested by the labouring classes towards their employers under the old system, has in a great degree disappeared, and the perfect and legitimate relation of master and servant is in progress of being established.

With

With regard to your inquiries as to any decrease of able-bodied pauperism, and any diminution of the burthens of the rate-payers, it is difficult to answer them satisfactorily until a greater lapse of time has more clearly shown the result of the new system. The measure has been in operation in this Union only one complete quarter; and the parochial accounts of the previous corresponding quarter cannot furnish safe data whereon any accurate calculation could rest. I can however report, that there has been certainly a decrease of all able-bodied pauperism; and in several instances, and more particularly in Wilton, a decided saving in the parochial expenditure.

For the last quarter the board have been in possession of the parish workhouse of Wilton; and although it was impracticable to apply the rules of the Commissioners, as to classification, &c. to their full extent, yet they have pursued them so far as to feel assured of the most beneficial results arising, when it becomes practicable, to carry them fully out.

I find that 63 orders of admission have been issued. Of these only 30 have been presented. Many applicants remained but a few days, and others a still shorter period, and some made their escape. It is easily to be seen that the workhouse system is most obnoxious to them.

I trust that when the Poor Law Commissioners' Rules are fully acted upon, I shall be enabled to make you a gratifying report of their effect within the Wilton Union.

Wilton, 3 May 1836. (signed) *Ts. Thring.*

Tisbury Union.

T. Grove, Jun., Esq., Chairman.

The diminution of the burthens of the rate-payers is very great, and, I am justified in stating, will be greater as the system gets into its proper action. The able-bodied paupers have been much improved in many of the parishes. They appear more anxious to obtain work; and although wages are low in this part of the country, they strive to live on the wages they receive; and I think the beer-houses are less frequented than they used to be. Many men have migrated to different parts of the country for work, and obtained it. Three families are about to emigrate to the colonies from the parish of Donhead St. Mary, to sail from Bristol next week. I allude now particularly to that parish, as it was reported the most pauperised in the Union; and therefore the effect of the new system in that parish more clearly demonstrates the benefit derived than any other in the Union. Seventy to ninety able-bodied paupers were, the winter before last, often at one period receiving relief from the parish by being employed on the roads. Five to nine have been the average this winter, and of course that number was not more than was wanted for the necessary repair of the same. The complaints at our weekly meetings are getting less; and taking the average of our pauper population, with the means of employing the poor, I should say very few indeed, especially as every pauper, the moment he is discharged by his master, makes it a rule to apply to the board immediately. Upon making all the inquiries among the poor, as well as among the rate-payers and farmers, I have from time to time been enabled to do, I feel justified in stating that all the parishes are satisfied that great and beneficial good has arisen from the new system in the administration of the poor laws; and when we are more perfect in our means, having a workhouse where we can add to the comforts of the extreme old, by offering them a better asylum than some of the parishes are enabled to do at home, taking children, &c., I am decidedly of opinion that increased benefit will continue to multiply.

Ferne, 30 April 1836. *Thomas Grove,* Jun.

Melksham Union.

W. H. L. Bruges, Esq., Chairman.

I have attended every meeting of the guardians of the Melksham Union since its first establishment, and have much pleasure, at your request, in giving the result of my observations on the effect of the new poor law system as applied there.

We have always had a very good attendance of guardians, both elected and *ex officio*; and one great advantage arising from that circumstance has been, that it rarely happened that a case came under consideration as to which some member of the board could not give information, from a knowledge of the pauper, his circumstances, earnings or means of procuring employment. Possessing thereby within ourselves the means of accurate information, few paupers have attended the board from their speculating on the chance of misleading us. At each meeting we have received the reports of the relieving officers; and whenever we refused or reduced further relief, notice was given to the pauper that he might attend the board at their next meeting if he wished to appeal.

Not more than one-third appealed; of those not more than half showed reason for rescinding or varying the order first made; and I think of those who failed to do so, the careful investigation which their claims had received induced most of them to be satisfied that they had been justly decided upon.

The agricultural labourers and the manufacturers are reported to us to have become, since the formation of the Union, more attentive to their respective duties, more civil to their employers, and much more careful of retaining employment, now that labour has become their only source of subsistence.

You will judge from what I have stated of the probable improvement in the moral condition of the poor, and the decrease of able-bodied pauperism, but of the diminution of the rates, as the Union has not been in active operation more than three months, and we have not as yet erected a workhouse, I cannot refer to any very great amount as yet, though the changes effected, as before stated, must necessarily have produced considerable decrease.

In judging of the results as to reduction of rates, from data to be furnished hereafter, you must make due allowance for the cloth trade being, in the two largest parishes of the Union, as good or better than it was ever known to be; and instances frequently occur of families

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being maintained solely by the wife and some of the children, where the husband has not any work, and cannot contribute at all, and the family must otherwise be maintained by the parish.

Inexpediency of annual elections of guardians.

If it is intended to amend the present Poor Law Bill, I would beg to suggest that the guardians should not be elected about the 25th March, because the settling and arranging of so many parochial and other matters is fixed for that season of the year, that the pressure of public business is sufficiently heavy without it.

The overseers are then about to go out of office and some are either changed or changing; and the new officers are hardly in office at the time they are to perform their duties with regard to election of guardians. The accounts of the Union are made up and probably submitted to a new board of guardians, totally unacquainted with the principles on which they are kept, and of the orders justifying some of the charges; there is rather more duty just at that time, and it will naturally arise that the board will then be less acquainted with it. The only reliance is on the *ex-officio* guardians, many of whom, if active magistrates, are so taken up with their duties at petty and special sessions, and indeed the quarter sessions, that they cannot conveniently attend.

I think about Midsummer would be a better time for electing guardians, when there is less public business to attend to.

Sund, 30 April 1836. (signed) *W. H. Ludlow Bruges.*

Chippenham Union.

T. Clutterbuck, Esq., Chairman.

At the formation of our Union (which took place at the beginning of this year) there were 119 able-bodied labourers receiving parochial relief. This number is now reduced to 10; and I hope in the course of a few weeks to get these off our list.

The diminution of expenditure throughout the Union is, on an average, as much as 20 per cent.; but in several parishes it has amounted to 50 per cent.; and I have no doubt that it would be very materially lowered, if we could procure an eligible spot, and prevail upon the board to erect a central workhouse sufficient for the whole Union. There were, as you will remember, five workhouses which we were obliged to continue till Lady-day, when we got rid of two; and I consider there would be a great additional advantage in having the whole under the immediate control and superintendence of the board, as it would enable them to pursue a more equal and systematic plan than it is possible to adopt in three different houses.

It is yet early days to give a decided opinion as to the moral improvement of the labouring classes; but as far as I can judge, the system seems to work well; and I have myself no doubt that it will eventually be productive of much good to the country generally.

Harnish, April 30, 1836. (signed) *Thomas Clutterbuck.*

Malmesbury Union.

B.C. Thomas, Esq., Clerk.

I cannot find there is a single able-bodied pauper out of employment throughout the whole Union. There are no complaints whatever, but the paupers express themselves satisfied with the present state of things.

The decrease in the poor-rates must be considerable; the whole expense of the Union for the last quarter was only 1,114 *l.*, and the average you delivered in was 8,720 *l.*; so that if we can go on as well as we have hitherto done, I think we shall effect a saving equal to the whole amount of the land and assessed taxes for the division of Malmesbury; but in this I am told I am too sanguine.

With regard to the decrease of crime, I think that is perceptible. We have little to do at justice meetings. There has been, however, one sad exception. The Rev. Henry Hightwick, one of our magistrates, has had two cows shot dead by some miscreants; but I imagine this melancholy case originated in the game-laws, and had no reference to the management of the poor laws. Brinkworth was sadly distressed during part of the last quarter, in consequence of the continual rains which prevented out-door labour. In this town the men are all employed, and at good wages.

Malmesbury, May 1, 1836. (signed) *B. C. Thomas.*

Alderbury Union.

C. Matcham, Esq., Vice-Chairman.

With reference to your first question, "Whether any moral improvement is observable in the labouring classes?" I would remind you, that the Union was formed only in November last, at the commencement of the winter, when the necessities of the season came upon the labourer unawares during the summer, that the usual parish relief would be obtained now sparingly and with greater difficulty. To expect, therefore, much advance in habits of carefulness at this time would be unreasonable.

If the proceedings of the board (severe as they undoubtedly have been in many instances) shall have laid the foundation of a more prudent and thoughtful conduct, to be pursued when the summer employment affords opportunities for providing against the exigencies of winter, the improvement in one respect will be substantially gained. On this point I think we may anticipate a satisfactory result. Many employed at high wages in summer, as brickmakers, masons and prime labourers, who have usually spent their earnings and then sought relief on the plea of wanting winter work, are now aware, when opportunities have been neglected, that no sort of indulgence will be shown to such applications, and will act accordingly.

I need scarcely say, that although this observation may at first appear to touch on the question of finance rather than on that of morals, yet the result of care, more especially in this class, implies an abandonment of those habits which principally oppose its moral improvement. Some positive advance in this respect has however been already observed by several of the more intelligent guardians, who assure me, that the beer-houses are less frequented,

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Report of
Colonel
C. Ashe A'Court.

quented, and that a greater anxiety prevails among labourers to preserve their places by increased good conduct, diligence and respectful behaviour.

The state of able-bodied pauperism, if considered with reference to the quarter ending at Lady-day, the only period, I conceive, which can bear materially upon your question, has remained, I should say, nearly the same as at the foundation of the Union. Nor do I see how in a district, a great portion of which was actually overwhelmed by an unemployed agricultural peasantry, any considerable change could be effected by arrangements of ours. Neither the majority of farmers nor landlords in this neighbourhood were in a situation to take upon their hands an additional number of workmen; and if some among the labourers were really able to support themselves when applying for relief, you will recollect that we had no regular workhouse to test their actual situation. In some instances, however, we have silenced what appeared to be unreasonable applications, by offering the employment of bone-breaking by the hand, to be paid by measure. Whilst, therefore, I should deprecate the expectation of material improvement up to that period, in the alleviation of this evil, truth, nevertheless, obliges me to add, that, in my opinion, the winter has been one of unexampled hardship to our peasantry. I recollect at no time more people unemployed; no time where allowances were more scanty and insufficient; no time where distress has assumed a severer form. In some cases the usual winter arrangements have been disturbed; in many more the guardians, seeing a certain expense incurred by the machinery of the board, were determined to meet it by increased economy, perhaps severity of conduct towards the poor; whilst the objects of relief themselves occasionally added to their own misery, by distrusting the new authority when offers were made to them of taking their children into the poorhouse.

From this state, however, we are now in a great measure relieved. The experience our labourers have had of the rigid investigation attending applications for relief, their dislike of separation from children and their horror of the workhouse, have induced some hundreds to emigrate; and those who remain will, with the encreased means of employment, be probably induced to provide for the exigencies of the ensuing winter. If our number of labourers can now be kept down to that which is fairly required, I anticipate an improvement not only of circumstances but of character; for a long experience of their feelings and habits convinces me, that in very many instances their carelessness and recklessness is occasioned by want of employment, disappointment, and desperation. I trust, therefore, if next year you repeat your query as to the "state of able-bodied pauperism?" the answer you will receive will be very satisfactory.

I come now to your inquiry, "Whether any diminution has been made in the burthens of the rate-payers?" The average expenses of the parishes forming the Union were taken at its establishment to be 10,672 *l.* The total charge of all the parishes for the in-maintenance account, relief and quota to the Union, for the quarter ending at Lady-day, is stated to be 1,672 *l.* 0 *s.* 2 ¾ *d.*; add the county rate 190 *l.* 11 *s.* 8 *d.*, and the whole charge of that quarter will amount to 1,862 *l.* 11 *s.* 10 ¾ *d.* This sum, compared to one quarter of the previous average expenses of the parishes (2,668 *l.*) will show a saving of 806 *l.* in the quarter ending at Lady-day (about 30 per cent.) of the former expenditure.

Several accounts for maintenance of distant paupers are still necessarily current; but, on the other hand, the most expensive portion of the year is contrasted with a fourth of the whole expenditure previous to the Union. This result may chiefly be attributed to the suppression or abatement of the usual abuses. Such as overseers' expenses, persons improperly receiving relief at a distance, assistance to small tradesmen and mechanics, maintenance given to persons who should be supported by parents or children, *et hoc genus omne*, with all of which you are sufficiently familiar. The diminution is probably not proportionably diffused: in some cases among the smaller parishes the quota paid to the general establishment may be altogether a loss.

Although my answers are, I fear, imperfect, I do not at present recollect that I could add to this general information, unless I had time and opportunity to dissect the reports of our proceedings and the accounts of the Union. They must also be considered with the restriction required for the opinion merely of an individual, and of one, too, who has not had the leisure he could have desired under the circumstances to employ on the subject. I have not sent you an unmixed panegyric, but truly stated the impressions on my own mind, which has neither been influenced by original opposition, or preconceived partiality. I have seen and felt a very great public evil; I have been willing to judge fairly of the remedy proposed, and to give any humble assistance to a local trial in my power; and although I have at times had doubts on particular parts of the system, my present unbiassed and unhesitating opinion in decidedly favourable to its expedience.

New House, Downton, 6 May 1836. (signed) *Geo. Matcham.*

Amesbury Union.

Rev. G. P. Lowther, Chairman.

The new system of poor law administration has been worked in this Union, from its formation to the present time, with undeviating success, and is, I hope, producing very beneficial results, notwithstanding the disadvantage we labour under of being without any workhouse.

It is generally to be observed, that labourers are more anxious to procure, and less careless of retaining permanent places than heretofore; and the general demeanor of the poor is, towards the farmers, more respectful, and they receive their bread and pecuniary aid, if added, with expressions of thankfulness, as a charity and not as their indefeasible right.

These are the apparent results of the new system. I have no reason to think them fallacious appearances, or that there is any under-current of feeling of an opposite tendency.

The relief afforded, in this Union, to the aged, the sick and infirm, and to widows with young families is exceedingly liberal; and this liberality has proved equally advantageous

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to the recipients themselves, and the success of the system. These parties are the great talkers, and their contentedness puts to silence the clamour of imposture, and the grumbling of idleness.

Relief to able-bodied men is now seldom applied for, and never given except in cases of real temporary destitution, or to labourers with very large families and inadequate wages.

Relief in child-birth is regulated in the same way; not given as a matter of course, but only in peculiar circumstances, and then almost invariably in bread. Thus giving the husband the power of spending his wages in such indulgences as his wife's situation may require.

The wages in this Union are very low, only lately advanced to 7*s.*, and still at 6*s.* in one parish. The labourers are contented with 7*s.*; but bread has been selling at 10*d.* per gallon.

One other circumstance connected with the well working of the new system I am desirous of mentioning, as its practical result has been strongly exemplified in this Union. I allude to the employment of labourers by the board of guardians at full wages, who have been thrown out of work in their own parish without any fault of their own, and compelled to ask the relieving officer for work or support. This matter was, if I recollect right, explained to you when you last visited us, and was partially illustrated by the two cases you inquired into yourself.

It has not been of rare occurrence for a score of labourers to be all at once thrown upon the parish from a quarrel amongst the farmers about employing their fair proportion of men.

This occurred at Durrington. We directed the relieving officer to employ the whole body so dismissed in lowering a hill in the parish of Bulford, charging the work to the parish of Durrington.

They held out a fortnight; but from that day to the present no labourer has been out of employ in that parish. Indeed they have stirred themselves with such good effect, that a month since they shipped upwards of 20 as emigrants to Canada.

The parish of Amesbury played the same game for one week, and then uttered their *peccavi*.

The parish of Idmiston is now striving to beat us on the same question; they have for a fortnight been paying for 16 labourers working on a road in Winterbourne Gunner. They have threatened us with counsel's opinion, and the vengeance of the law, and, I dare say, will appeal to the Central Board.

Of the approbation of the Poor Law Commissioners I feel assured, and I give it as my fixed opinion, that the steady and unremitting application of this rule will ensure the constant employment of every labourer in his own parish.

I have to report a very considerable diminution of expenses, amounting, in the aggregate, I hope, to full 25 per cent.

If we take the last quarter, which was the winter quarter, and compare it with the average of three years struck by yourself, we shall find it to be 760*l.*, while the aggregate of the rate was 4,445*l.* Now 760*l.* multiplied by four will give a product 3,040*l.*, which, subtracted from 4,445*l.*, leaves an apparent saving on the whole year of 1,405*l.*

The workhouse expenses will be added to the other charges after the next quarter, and will subtract somewhat from this saving; but the weekly payments, as the season advances, are in progress of diminution, so that I think I may state 25 per cent. as the amount of saving that may be expected upon the whole Union.

This, as you may suppose, affects different parishes in very unequal proportions. My own parish, for instance, will experience no saving, from the careful manner in which our funds were heretofore managed.

I expect Shrewton to exhibit an increased expenditure, from the fact of its standing alone in giving no more than 6*s.* a week to its labourers, and the consequent assistance that must be given to persons with large families.

Of the working of the bastardy clauses in the new Act, I can give no useful information, as they have not come much under our cognizance; but it is our determination to give full effect to the intentions of the Legislature whenever the necessity arises.

Orcheston, Devizes, 30 April 1836. (signed) *G. P. Lowther.*

Marlborough Union.

Rev.
E. G. Williams,
Chairman.

I AM happy to inform you that, even in the short time since the Union has been formed there has been a considerable diminution in applications by able-bodied labourers, and of course a consequent diminution in the poor-rates; and though I think a perhaps unwise expenditure has occurred in furniture, &c. for our wretched poorhouses, yet the diminution in the rates will be something very considerable, after all expenses, in every parish in the Union.

I do not know that we have good right to expect a very visible moral improvement in the short period of this Union's existence; but I think it must work, even in this ill-paid district, in which a labourer, whatever number his family consists of, receives only 6*s.* a week, and no assistance at all in money or bread from the board, and he is of course found to exert every faculty of mind and body to support his family. Hence he must flee the public-house and the more noisome beer-shop: he has no time for idleness either of himself or of his children; and regular habits will lead him to seek, on the only day allotted the poor in this country, religious instruction in his church.

In the adjoining parish of Preshute some farmers pay their labourers on Saturday night or on Sunday morning; and nothing but a legislative enactment will drive away the habit so unfair towards the poor.

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In a matter of this kind I am very slow in giving a decided opinion; but I have great hopes that the new Bill will on the whole work well.

Marlborough, 8 May 1836. (signed) *E. G. Williams.*

Cricklade & Wootton Basset Union.

Rev. T. H. Ripley, Chairman.

I AM happy to believe that our Union, since its short establishment, has operated with very good results. You are aware that we have no workhouse, not even one put into use as a temporary accommodation.

The average of the poor-rates for the past three years for the parishes in Union was 11,948*l.* The total expenses since the Union was formed, for the quarter ending March 25, including the overseers' accounts with the Union expenditure, is about 1,600*l.* Taking the other three quarters of the year at this proportion, the yearly poor-rates for the Union would be 6,400*l.*, a reduction of little less than half from the old rates. But it may fairly be expected that the expenditure of the present and next quarters will be sensibly less than the past. I think therefore we may call the rates reduced one-half by the immediate working of the Union. I find by a reference to the overseers' books of the quarter from last Michaelmas to Christmas, and a comparison with the Union books from Christmas to Lady-day, that the decrease of able-bodied paupers during the last quarter is between a fourth and a fifth; a short period to form a reduction in; and from the reports of the relieving officers, whom I frequently question, there is no reason to suppose the poor are dissatisfied, or, comparatively with their former condition, distressed. Wives and families are especially satisfied with the relief in kind, and the men themselves generally so, the bread being of good quality, cheaper and of the first necessity in families. I observe too, since rent is no longer paid, many cottages built and building in parishes, on pieces of waste land, and pieces of ground rented, which gives me an idea of the resources and credit of the poor (before paupers) which I had not before. The persons who regret the payments in kind are of course the idle and dissolute, who have less money to spend.

The beer-houses have fallen off in their receipts full half since our establishment. I have ascertained this by employing a person privately, and without causing suspicion, to visit ten or a dozen. This was the language of the keepers of the houses generally. Perhaps it was only to be expected; however, it is a fact.

One cannot form an estimate of the diminution of bastardy yet, but I should say it was decreasing evidently, from a reference to my own parish register of baptisms. The Union allowance, in conformity with the enactments and spirit of the new law, will tend to its diminution.

It has been found too, as in other Unions, from all persons of whom I have inquired, that the tone of the labourers is improved; they are more civil and respectful towards their employers, keep better hours, and do more work.

Emigration has not yet been resorted to to any extent, but 35 are about to be sent immediately from Purton to Canada, and several other parishes are preparing to do the same.

I hope I may have the pleasure of satisfying you by this report, that our Union is effecting a moral reformation in persons and things; I believe, too, not violently.

Wootton Basset, 10 May 1836. (signed) *T. H. Ripley.*

— No. 8. —

REPORT on *Middlesex* and *Surrey*, by *C. Mott*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

No. 8.
Report of *Charles Mott*, Esq.

Gentlemen, 30 July 1836.

IN compliance with your instructions, I have the honour to lay before you a Report upon the district which you have committed to my care. The very constant and urgent demands upon my attention in the conduct of that district have prevented me from furnishing a more complete statement than the brief notes of which the report consists.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales.

(signed) *Charles Mott,*
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

REPORT by *Charles Mott*, Esq., Assistant Commissioner.

Districts brought under the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

THE Unions which I first formed (except the Hendon) having been transferred to other Assistant Commissioners, to whom the respective districts in which they are situate have since been assigned, I was directed by the Board last autumn to proceed with the metropolitan districts, comprising the counties of Middlesex and Surrey, and including the London parishes. In these two counties there are 390 parishes, containing, according to the census of 1831, a population of 1,843,900 persons; the amount expended on the poor in the year 1832 was about one million of money.

The following Unions and parishes in the above-named counties are now under the rules and regulations of the Board: namely, the

Unions of Guildford,	comprising	21	parishes,	and a population of				21,143
Chertsey	- ditto	9	ditto	- - -	ditto	-		13,369
Hambledon	ditto	16	ditto	- - -	ditto	-		11,882
Dorking	- ditto	8	ditto	- - -	ditto	-		9,547
Reigate	- ditto	16	ditto	- - -	ditto			11,497

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Unions of Godstone, comprising	14	parishes, and a population of	7,367				
Croydon -	ditto	10	ditto	- - -	ditto	-	22,113
Epsom - -	ditto	15	ditto	- - -	ditto	-	15,723
Kingston -	ditto	13	ditto	- - -	ditto	-	18,085
Richmond -	ditto	5	ditto	- - -	ditto	-	12,805
Clapham and Wandsworth	ditto	6	ditto	- - -	ditto	-	33,090
St. Saviour's	ditto	2	ditto	- - -	ditto	-	31,311
St. Olave's -	ditto	3	ditto	- - -	ditto	-	20,021
Hendon -	ditto	8	ditto	- - -	ditto	-	13,191
Staines -	ditto	12	ditto	- - -	ditto	-	12,492
Uxbridge -	ditto	11	ditto	- - -	ditto	-	13,623
Brentford	ditto	10	ditto	- - -	ditto	-	32,605
Strand - -	ditto	5	ditto	- - -	ditto	-	26,220
Holborn -	ditto	2	ditto	- - -	ditto	-	37,763

And the single parishes which have been placed under a board of guardians are —

Lambeth - - - - -	comprising a population of	-	87,856
Newington - - - - - - - -	ditto	-	44,526
Camberwell - - - - - - -	ditto	-	28,231
St. George, Southwark - - -	ditto	-	39,769
Bermondsey - - - - - - -	ditto	-	29,741
Rotherhithe - - - - - - -	ditto	-	12,875
St. George-in-the-East - - -	ditto	-	38,505
Shoreditch - - - - - - - -	ditto	-	68,564
Bethnal Green - - - - - -	ditto	-	62,018
St. Martin-in-the-Fields - - -	ditto	-	23,732
			798,674

The duties of the guardians of the Unions formed in the winter cease at the end of the parochial year, in March, when a new board is elected; and knowing the dislike that the guardians have to act for a few months only, I have considered it best to proceed with the preliminary steps of taking the averages of the respective parishes, and holding meetings of the rate-payers to enable me to complete the particulars for the information of the Board previous to the declaration of the Unions.

At Farnham an intended Union has been delayed, in consequence of the refusal of the guardians of a small Gilbert's Act incorporation at Ash, consisting of four parishes, to give their consent to its dissolution. With this exception all the parishes in Surrey, including the metropolitan parishes south of the Thames, are now placed under boards of guardians, as well as most of the agricultural, and several of the large metropolitan parishes in Middlesex; and the whole of the two counties will I trust shortly be under the operation of the new law.

Inconvenience of Unions of many small parishes.

City of London.

It has been thought desirable by the Board, that the whole of the parishes in the city of London, in number about 114, should be placed in one Union. The advantages which would result from such an Union are obvious, and the plan is highly approved of by the city authorities; but under the Poor Law Amendment Act, this desirable object cannot be obtained with any chance of success. Every parish must have at least one elected guardian; in many of the small city parishes the inhabitants are under 100 in each parish; if each of these small parishes were allowed to elect one guardian, the large parishes of 10,000 or 12,000 inhabitants, must, in common fairness, be allowed three or four; and this would bring together a body of guardians, consisting of at least 150, which every person who knows anything of board management, will at once declare to be perfectly incompetent to the proper transaction of business. The plan of an Union of parishes of this magnitude, naturally raises up numerous opponents in the vestry clerks, beadles, assistant-overseers and other paid officers; in short, the violent opposition to the measure sometimes displayed, may, in most cases, be traced to these or similar interested sources.

Proceedings in St. Pancras parish.

I feel called upon to advert to the proceedings taken in consequence of the order of the Board, placing the parish of St. Pancras under a board of guardians, and I cannot but express my regret that any opposition should have been offered to the introduction of the new law into that large and respectable parish.

The directors of the parish have refused to act under the orders of the Commissioners; an adherence to such refusal can only end in the great dissatisfaction of the rate-payers, and lead to heavy expense. It is due to the directors, however, to state, that they have already effected a very large reduction in the poor-rates of the parish, and that their objections are not to the rules and regulations issued by the Commissioners for the relief of the poor, but to the alterations in the constitution of their board of management. They have been advised that, having adopted the Act commonly called Hobhouse's Act, the parish is placed beyond the power of the Poor Law Commissioners, unless the consent of a majority of the owners and rate-payers is first obtained.

I am bound to state also, that, individually, I was treated with courtesy and attention. The directors, as gentlemen and men of business, in their view of the subject, separated the executive duties of the Assistant Commissioner from the orders of the Board, which they considered they were not bound to attend to.

In

Modes of management in London.

In London the modes of relief, and the views of the rate-payers respecting them, differ widely from many of those established in the rural districts. The separation of man and wife, which has given rise to so much opposition in some parts of the country, has always been strictly enforced in the London parishes; and in the best regulated of their workhouses it has invariably been held as a sure sign of incompetency on the part of the master, when the male and female paupers have been suffered to associate together, even in the daytime. The necessity for separation is better understood; and the principal, and almost the only, obstacle in the metropolitan parishes arises out of the difficulty of procuring sufficient space for complete separation of all the classes, owing to the value of the ground. The effect of this obstacle is, however, in some measure diminished by the provisions of the Act 7 Geo. 3, c. 39, (which is still in force), that children below a certain age, belonging to the metropolitan parishes, must be sent into the country to nurse. This is more particularly the case in the 17 parishes without the walls of the city; 23 in Middlesex and Surrey being within the bills of mortality and the liberty of the Tower of London, and the 10 parishes within the city and liberty of Westminster. The existing establishments for the reception of pauper children, which in point of cleanliness are unexceptionable, and in which the children are well instructed, will, when placed under the rules and regulations of the Commissioners, afford great facilities to the guardians in providing for this important part of their charge.

At the time of passing the Act 7 Geo. 3, c. 39, the city parishes were incorporated for the management of the poor, and the 97 parishes within the city walls were exempt from its operation. The City Incorporation Act was subsequently repealed, and for many years past the small city parishes have been under separate parish management.

Differences of opinion.

The three chief points upon which a difference of opinion exists amongst the guardians of the London parishes are,—

1st. The allowance of beer to the in-door paupers generally.

2d. Remuneration to the paupers for services performed in the workhouses as nurses, &c.

3d. The means of affording religious instruction to the inmates of workhouses.

Upon these subjects I shall proceed to offer a few observations.

Use of beer in workhouses.

1st. The use of beer in workhouses being prohibited by the Poor Law Amendment Act, the Commissioners have no discretion except as regards the sick and infirm, and with this explanation the guardians have been generally satisfied.

Payments to paupers for services.

2d. The payment to paupers for services in the workhouse has been in some instances carried to an extent which few persons are aware of. The following copy of a list of payments to pauper servants in one of the London parishes, is of itself sufficient to justify the instructions of the Board, "that no pauper shall be allowed to work on his own account whilst an inmate of the workhouse, the parish that supports him being entitled to the full produce of his labour."

	Per week. £.	s.	d.
40 nurses and assistants -	2	9	3
4 bearers of dead bodies -	–	4	–
1 dead-house keeper - -	–	2	–
2 truck men - - -	–	2	–
4 sedan chairmen - -	–	2	–
1 matron's cook - - -	–	1	6
3 servants employed - -	–	1	3
1 cook of house - - -	–	3	–
1 assistant ditto - - -	–	1	–
1 washerwoman for matron -	–	1	–
3 mantua-makers and menders	–	1	8
1 master's messenger - -	–	1	–
1 slate-keeper - - -	–	1	3
1 pantry-man - - -	–	1	–
1 carrier of night work -	–	1	–
1 foreman of work - -	–	1	–
1 weigher & tubber of oakum	–	1	6
2 assistants in cotton shop -	–	1	–
1 foreman - - - -	–	2	–
1 night watchman - -	–	1	6
1 urine collector - - -	–	1	6
2 blacksmiths and assistant -	–	1	6
1 lower gatekeeper - -	–	1	6
1 chapel cleaner - - -	–	–	6
2 hall-keepers - - -	–	2	–
1 yard cleaner - - -	–	–	6
1 stair cleaner - - -	–	–	6
1 chapel cleaner - - -	–	–	6

	Per week. £.	s.	d.
8 men and boys in tailor's shop	–	3	6
8 ditto - - shoemaker's	–	3	–¾
10 laundry women - -	–	3	4
2 bricklayers - - -	–	2	–
2 labourers - - -	–	1	–
1 carpenter - - -	–	2	–
1 barber - - - -	–	6	–
3 blanket washers - -	–	3	–
8 bedstead cleaners - -	–	7	–
1 painter - - - -	–	–	6
2 laundry women for children	–	4	6
3 nurses - - ditto - -	–	4	–
1 schoolmistress - - -	–	1	6
1 needlewoman - - -	–	–	6
2 kitchenwomen and scourers	–	1	–
1 hair cutter - - -	–	–	4
1 cook - - - -	–	1	6
1 schoolmaster - - -	–	2	–
2 pauper doorkeepers - -	–	3	6
1 messenger - - -	–	2	–
1 late messenger - - -	–	1	–
1 office cleaner - - -	–	2	–
1 messenger to pensioners -	–	1	–
1 shoemaker - - -	–	2	–
1 assistant in office - -	–	2	6
1 superannuated office cleaner	–	1	–
1 superannuated (of the holes)	–	–	6
139 Persons. £.	8	–	7¾

It appears there are 139 persons kept in the workhouse of a single parish, all of them capable of working, and paid for their services money amounting, according to the above account, to about, per year - - - - - - - - - - £. 418 – –

Add, the cost of their maintenance, at 3*s.* 6*d.* per head per week and clothing, per year - - - - - - - - - - 1,264 18 –

£. 1,682 18 –

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Every body at all acquainted practically with workhouse management is aware that half a dozen good paid servants will do more work than all this host of pauper nurses, cooks, cleaners, keepers and assistants. Let us, however, estimate that it will require—

	£.	s.	d
Eight women servants, at 10*l.* per year	80	–	–
Four men servants, at 15*l.* per year	60	–	–
	140	–	–
Keep of 12 servants, at 5*s.* per week each	156	–	–
Thirty-five paupers in place of 139, at 3*s.* 6*d.*	323	10	–
Amounting altogether to £.	619	10	–

Deduct this from the present cost of 1,682 *l.* 18 *s.*, and there will be a clear saving of about 1,050 *l.* by this arrangement. There are many other considerations connected with this subject to which it is not necessary here to allude, but which leave no doubt on my mind of the impropriety of these payments to paupers.

When the Commissioners' regulations are properly enforced in this parish, what may be expected to become of these pauper cooks, mantua makers, doorkeepers and messengers? More than three-fourths of them will quit the workhouse and find work for themselves.

Religious instruction of in-door paupers.

3d. The other subject upon which some of the boards of guardians have applied to the Poor Law Commissioners, namely, the enforcement of religious worship in the workhouses, and the prevention of the egress of paupers on Sundays, is one upon which it is likely much difference of opinion may continue to exist. The rule framed by the board is in strict accordance with the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and there is abundant proof that it is a very useful one, based upon sound principle and essential to good workhouse management. A considerable majority of the boards of guardians support the enforcement of the rule, and strong representations have been made from some parishes on the impropriety of permitting the paupers to go out on Sundays for the purpose of enabling them to attend their places of worship, the liberty so allowed being generally abused and employed in begging, the proceeds of which are spent in debauchery. From close attention to this subject, I am induced to believe that an extremely small proportion, perhaps not more than five per cent. of the paupers in workhouses are desirous of going out from sincerely religious motives only. Applications have been made in favour of some individuals of particular religious persuasions; but the relaxation of the rule in favour of any sect would open the door to abuse, and would nominally change the religion of most of the pauper inmates.

Opposition from political feelings and local interests.

The introduction of the principles of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and the well-working of the measures of the Commissioners, are in the first instance considerably impeded by political feelings.

In many parishes the rules and regulations of the Commissioners for the relief and management of the poor, are not themselves the objects which create dissatisfaction: the dislike, where it exists, to the measure, mainly arises from a knowledge that the new constitution introduced by the election of guardians prescribed by the Commissioners under the provisions of the Act, destroys the influence of the old parochial boards, which, in too many instances, have suffered themselves to be misled by party spirit, and have neglected the interests of the rate-payers generally in the prosecution of their own political schemes. I was told at St. Pancras, "we do not object to the rules and regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners, but we are determined to resist any alteration in our constitution as a board."

All parochial trusts should be under the boards of guardians.

I have had frequent occasion to state to the Board my opinion, that the new law will not be complete until all parochial trusts and every description of parochial receipt and expenditure are placed under the local boards of guardians.

Most of the large London parishes are managed under local Acts, by boards of directors, governors or trustees, composed of from 40 to 120 members, under which other charges than those for the relief of the poor are placed. The largest number of guardians allotted by the Commissioners for any one parish, is 21. The whole relief to the poor is thus placed in the hands of, perhaps, 18 or 20 guardians, whilst the old machinery remains; and thus we see at Shoreditch (as also at Bethnal Green, St. George in the East, Bermondsey, &c.,) another board, consisting of 120 directors, to manage the churchyard and other trifling trusts, having a separate establishment of officers: they have still the control of certain portions of the rates, as police-rate, county-rate, &c., opening a field for the introduction and payment of those illegal and objectionable items which the new system will prevent, being charged upon that part of the poor-rate which is under the control of the new board of guardians, such as unnecessary clerks or beadles, pensions to retired servants, &c.

Great jealousy exists between the two boards so constituted; continual disputes arise and will always continue, unless the whole of the parochial rates are placed under the elected board of guardians, directed to be chosen under the orders of the Commissioners.

I beg to adduce the following facts in support of the opinion advanced above: such abuses could not again occur if all parochial trusts and expenditure were brought under the management of one board.

In one of the parishes in the Chertsey Union the parishioners have recently, under the new Highway Act (which gives the power of appointing a parish surveyor), voted a guinea a week to their old vestry clerk and assistant overseer as highway surveyor, and for this salary have required the performance of the duties of his former situation.

At

At Chertsey, a charge of 66 *l.* per year has been made upon the poor-rate, as an annuity for 600 *l.* borrowed 38 years since for enlarging the churchyard.

In Bishopsgate parish, in the city of London, 60 *l.* per year has been voted from the poor-rates as a retiring pension to the surgeon of the parish.

The appointment and control of the auditors by the Board, and the necessity for the whole of the parochial rates and trusts being subject to their examination, cannot be too often urged on the attention of the Commissioners. Without such control, the system is incomplete, and will lead to all manner of jobbing and shifting of illegal and objectionable charges from the poor-rate to any other available fund. In nearly all the parishes or Unions in which the new measures have been introduced, a desire has been expressed for such an arrangement.

Appointment and control of auditors.

The guardians of the parishes of Camberwell and St. George Southwark, have requested me to act as Auditor, and the guardians of the parishes of Rotherhithe, Bermondsey, Newington, and the Unions of St. Olave, St. Saviour, the Strand, Holborn, and those of Uxbridge, Staines, Brentford, all willingly postponed the appointment of auditor at my suggestion, in the hope that a Bill would be passed to enable the Commissioners to appoint the auditor.

The proceedings of the Unions of St. Saviour, St. Olave, the Strand and Holborn, prove that the arrangement suggested above, tends to soften the violence of party feeling, hitherto so much indulged in, in rival parishes, and strongly promotes good feeling and unanimity.

I now proceed to lay before the Board a brief statement of the working of the new measures in the district assigned to my care; and to adduce exemplifications of its beneficial effects as well as regards the poorer classes themselves as the rate-payers.

Operation of the new measures; effects on rate-payers and on paupers.

The Hendon Union has been in operation since 1st May 1835; and with what success the following extract of a letter from Mr. Tootell, the clerk to the guardians of that union, will testify better than any statement of my own:

" Edgware, 19th July 1836.

" I HAVE completed the account up to Midsummer, which finished one year, and I am glad to say the result is as follows: Hendon Union.

The average, ascertained at the formation of this Union, of the cost of the poor for the three preceding years is - - - - - - - - - - - -	£. 8,573
The total payments by the guardians for the year is - - - - - -	4,694
Now this sum includes furnishing the houses, repairs, salaries to clerk and relieving officer, rents of workhouses, none of which items are included in the above sum of 8,573 *l.* - - - - - - - - - - -	1,860
Which leaves for the poor - - - - - - - - - - - -	£. 2,834

When the Union was formed, or rather I should say, when the guardians began to act, which was at Midsummer 1835, the out-pay was (per week) - -	£.	46	1 9
At Midsummer 1836, it is - - - - - - - - - (ditto) - -		9	13 9

" Poor in the workhouse at the former period, 69; and notwithstanding the great decrease in the out-door pay, the number in the house has increased only to 84.

" The poor-rate for the first year will not have decreased in the same rate as the expenditure for the poor has, by reason of the overseers' clearing off their debts; but in every parish the reduction is considerable.

" As far as regards the deserving poor, their condition is much bettered; they have every thing that is good; they are well attended to, and with one exception, (namely, the want of beer), they none of them complain. As to the labouring population, a decided and almost miraculous change has taken place; I will not say wholly attributable to the new Poor Act, but in a great degree effected by it: previous to its coming into operation, at least 200 indivividuals were employed (as it was so called), and paid out of the poor-rate during the winter season; but in the last year there was a difficulty in finding a labourer, and I think that the expenditure for labour by the guardians did not exceed 20 *l.* for the year, and those so employed by them were not what could be called able-bodied, but partially disabled. If, as was the case in a few instances, an able-bodied man did come to work for the parish, he was very soon satisfied that any other work was better than that afforded through the guardians. Hard work, confinement at it, and receiving only what they earned, was not what they had been accustomed to or expected under parish employment, and hence an able-bodied man was with us only a few days.

" From these circumstances it may fairly be inferred that the condition of the labourers is much bettered, and their character and conduct improved.

" The guardians, upon inquiry, have found that the self-supporting medical clubs will be scarcely available in this Union, inasmuch as there are benefit clubs, the members of which subscribe and have a medical man attached to each. We have no savings bank in this Union, but the well-conducted friendly societies are increasing.

" I trust that the general improvement in the state of the Union, which I have given you the heads of, will be satisfactory, and convince you that the guardians have been only actuated by a desire to carry the principles of the new Act into full operation within this Union. I am, &c. (signed) *W. S. Tootell.*"

In the parish of Camberwell, where the Rev. J. Storie has acted as chairman, with a most respectable board of guardians, the change of system has produced the best possible effect.

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No. 8.

Report of *Charles Mott*, Esq.

At the last board-day not a single pauper applied for relief; and four persons returned thanks, either personally or by letter, to the guardians for the assistance they had received, and stated that they should not again have occasion for parochial assistance.

Camberwell.

Camberwell is the first parish in the neighbourhood of London, where the system has been carried out; and it is not possible to speak too highly of the whole of the proceedings of the Camberwell guardians. Their mild, but firm, manner of enforcing the change, and the correct method of keeping their accounts, have been of the greatest benefit to the rate-payers. A rate, lately made, of 10*d.* in the pound is calculated to defray the charges for police and county rates, and meet all the cost of the poor for the next half year; and at the same time the intelligence and respectability of the guardians is a sufficient guarantee that the wants of the aged, infirm and really necessitous poor have not been neglected. In the quarter ending 24th June, the guardians of Camberwell have reduced the number of out-door cases more than 600, by offering admission into the workhouse instead of relieving in money; whilst the number of inmates has increased about 30 only.

I have been told by many respectable inhabitants of Camberwell, particularly by the Rev. H. W. C. Hyde, whose visits to the houses of the poor enable him to speak with confidence, and whose humanity is beyond dispute, that he can perceive a marked improvement in the condition of the labouring classes. Mr. Hyde's opinion is the more worthy of notice, because he is a convert to the new system, having at first had conscientious doubts upon its propriety and practicability.

Lambeth.

The guardians of the very extensive parish of Lambeth have carried into effect the new system with a zeal and unanimity well becoming the representatives of that large and respectable parish. Nothing can exceed the attention given by Mr. Shadbolt, the chairman, and this highly respectable board of guardians. The reductions and improvements effected in Lambeth are already most extensive, and cannot fail to procure for the guardians the respect and gratitude of the rate-payers.

Great praise is likewise due to the guardians of the Strand and St. Saviour's Unions, for their very prompt and judicious arrangements to meet the provisions of the new law.

The guardians of the St. Olave Union, as also of the parishes of Bermondsey, Bethnal Green and St. George in the East, are likewise successfully introducing the new system.

Imposture detected by new system.

Instance.

Wherever the regulations of the Commissioners are enforced, their beneficial effects are almost beyond expectation. The Poor Law Amendment Act may indeed be called an Act of renovation, for it causes "the lame to walk, the blind to see, and the dumb to speak." Amongst the out-door paupers who came for examination in the St. Saviour's Union, was a young woman named Ann Hamilton, who had been receiving relief for above 12 years, as deaf and dumb, in the parish of Christ-church. A strong feeling was excited in her favour; and the guardians were on the point of determining to grant her assistance out of the workhouse, as a case of necessity from affliction, when it was suggested that she was a strong healthy young woman; and as it had been generally found that, where the new regulations had been carried out, some difficulty occurred in procuring paupers to do the customary work in the house, her services would be useful. This being agreed to, the officer was directed to communicate to her the decision of the board. He accordingly wrote on a piece of a paper, "The gentlemen will take you into the workhouse;" and upon its being shown to her, she instantly exclaimed, "I wo'nt go into the workhouse," and vented a volley of abuse on the officers as she quitted the house. Mr. Hawley informed me of a young woman who had imposed on the officers of a parish in one of the Unions in Sussex, by representing herself as blind. The medical attendant, on examination, was satisfied she was an impostor, and said to the officer, in a whisper loud enough to be heard, in the presence of the young woman, he could restore her sight, but she must undergo the painful operation of having her eye-lids removed, and that he would attend the next day for the purpose; his attendance, however, was unnecessary, the young woman having immediately recovered her sight.

Ignorance and abuse counteracted by new system.

The gross ignorance under which parochial affairs in most places were formerly conducted, and the abuses which sprung out of it, are well known; some additional facts have, however, come under my notice during my inquiries, which exhibit so ludicrous a picture of the folly and extravagance of the old system of parochial management, that I deem it right to communicate them to the Board. The instances which I shall bring forward will illustrate in strong contrast the working of the old and new system.

Examples.

Mr. Fountain, the overseer of Ruislip, Middlesex, one of the parishes in the Uxbridge Union, is a respectable farmer and large rate-payer, and had greatly reduced the rates in that parish by his exertions. He states that the overseer now in office with him filled the office of overseer about six years since. On asking him, a few days ago, how he liked the new poor law system, his colleague answered, "Not at all. When I was overseer before, the parish shoemaker sent me as a present a pair of new boots before I had been in office a fortnight; I have now been in office three months, but have had no new boots nor anything else."

Beershops.

Mr. Fountain also informed me that under the old parish pay system it was found necessary to have two constables with staves placed over the parish pay-table, to prevent the paupers from helping themselves. At that time there were three beer-shops in the parish, which always on those days presented disgraceful scenes of drunkenness and riot; and Mr. Fountain ascertained that before the new system was enforced the number of meat dinners cooked by the baker in the parish, for the poor, averaged seven per week; within a month from the time of stopping the money relief, and throwing the labourers on their own resources, the meat dinners increased to 30 weekly, and the disturbances at the beer-shops immediately ceased.

At Godalming, Surrey, the inhabitants remarked that on the day the paupers were paid at the workhouse, there was always at a certain beer-shop a scene of drunkenness,

riot

riot and confusion that became a nuisance to the neighbourhood. A respectable surgeon in the town, who lived near this house, observed that on one of these days the noise and drunkenness ceased; and finding after two or three weeks that the disgraceful scenes had not been renewed, he was induced to make inquiry, when he found that on the very day the annoyance was stopped, the officers had commenced giving relief in bread instead of money. Numerous other instances might be stated, but it would be tedious to repeat the impositions that have been detected on the part of individual paupers.

The deserving paupers are grateful for the change, which makes a distinction between respectable poverty and worthless pauperism; and the paupers in a body have in some cases themselves brought their condition under notice. I may instance three large metropolitan parishes. From one, the inmates of the workhouse sent a memorial, requesting the Commissioners would put the new law in force in their parish. In another parish, the paupers petitioned the board of guardians to be allowed to have beer, &c. introduced into the workhouse, "to be paid for by the consumers." And in another parish, the names of about 320 in-door paupers were attached to a sort of requisition to a gentleman, one of the old officers, soliciting him to become a candidate, and requesting the parishioners generally to elect him as one of the guardians under the new Poor Law Act.

The following fact, which is one of the many that show the abundant necessity of a change of system, occurred lately in Lambeth. On the introduction of the new arrangements into that parish, the paupers, believing that money relief would be stopped, subscribed and presented to George Anderson, an assistant beadle, a handsome silver snuff-box. This snuff-box is now in my possession, and bears the following inscription: "Presented to George Anderson, assistant beadle of St. Mary, Lambeth, by the out-door poor, for his kindness of heart, urbanity of manners, and dispatch of public *bussiness*."

Effect of old bastardy law.

In the parish of Effingham, Surrey, (in the Dorking Union,) in the year 1814, a young man, named Henry Cook, a pauper belonging to Effingham, was apprehended by the parish officers of Slinfold, in Sussex, as the father of an illegitimate child with which a young woman of Slinfold was then pregnant. In accordance with the old system, a forced marriage was contracted, and in about six months after she was removed with her child to Effingham workhouse. John Chippen, the governor of the workhouse, who had contracted to maintain all the paupers of that parish for a specific sum of 210*l.* per year, complained of the incumbrance thus brought upon him, when the parish officers and Chippen prevailed upon Cook to sell his wife.

The overseers accordingly directed Chippen to take her to the town of Croydon on the next market day, which he did on the 17th June, 1815, in a halter, where, as it had been previously arranged, the husband met them. The wife was then sold by the husband to one John Earl for one shilling, which was given to Earl by Chippen to make the purchase. In order to bind the bargain, the following receipt (the original is now in my possession) was written out on a 5*s.* stamp, and attested by Daniel Cook, the brother of the husband, and Chippen, the governor of the workhouse.

(Copy.)

(5*s.* Stamp.) June 17, 1835.

Received of John Earl the sum of one shilling, in full for my lawful wife, by me,

Henry Cook.

Daniel Cook,
John Chippen, } Witnesses.

The governor of the workhouse, by desire of the overseers of Effingham, paid the expenses of their refreshments at Croydon, and also of the conveyance there and back; he also took the purchaser, John Earl, and Cook's wife, back to the workhouse at Effingham, and allowed them to sleep there that night. The next day they departed to Dorking (Earl's parish), at which church, after publication of the banns on three Sundays, Earl and the woman went through the marriage ceremony, and are duly registered there as man and wife. The parish officers of Effingham on this occasion provided them with a leg of mutton as a wedding dinner. Earl and the woman lived together many years, and had a family of seven or eight children; but Earl, having ascertained that the marriage was not valid, deserted the woman, who was then removed back to Effingham, her first husband's settlement, with her family of children, where they have ever since been maintained at the cost of the parish. The expenses incurred by this transaction were at the time entered in the parish accounts, and were regularly passed at a parish vestry. The parish officers of Effingham subsequently applied to the magistrates to compel Cook, the first husband, to maintain the woman and her children. It is hardly necessary to add, that the magistrates dismissed the application.

Overseer a shopkeeper: abuse therefrom.

In the parish books of Horne, Surrey, I observed a charge for a long-continued allowance to a widow Maynard. The overseer was a paid assistant, who had been in office many years, and was a shopkeeper, and, as he told me, supplied the paupers with "all kinds of grocery and linen drapery." The account was evidently confused; and as the overseer knew little of the woman further than that he believed she lived at Peckham, and that the money was paid to another shopkeeper at Peckham, who also supplies the poor with "all kinds of grocery and linen drapery." I undertook the inquiry myself.

I found that she had received from Horne parish an allowance for about nine years, and that her children being of an age to get their own living, this pension to the widow had enabled her to procure another husband, a widower, who was also receiving a pension from his own parish of Kensington; this man, the second husband, an industrious hard-working bricklayer's labourer, acknowledged, without hesitation, that he married the widow on

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account of her pension of 7*s.* per week, which, with his own allowance of 6*s.* per week, and his weekly wages (being in constant work), placed them in a state of comfort and comparative affluence. The woman declared that in the first place she had not received so large a weekly allowance as the overseer had charged to the parish; and next, that during the whole nine years she had never received one sixpence in money, but had been supplied by the "dealer in all kinds of grocery and linen drapery" with his shop goods at prices 25 per cent. higher than she could have obtained them for elsewhere; so that the assistant-overseer-dealer on the one hand secured a profit by charging to the parish 2*s.* per week more than the woman declares her allowance amounted to, and on the other hand by selling his goods at 25 per cent. above the ordinary prices; and moreover, he for nine years (during which time the woman never even obtained a settlement with him) let his tenements at exorbitant rents, with parish security.

Parish books sold for waste paper.

At Epsom, some years since, the vestry clerk died, or became bankrupt, when the whole of the parish books and documents were put up to auction with his other effects, and sold as waste paper at so much per pound, thus destroying in that parish all record of parochial transactions up to that time.

Property not rated.

At Leatherhead, on making inquiries when the new measure was about being introduced into that district, it was discovered that 300 acres of land liable to poor-rate had never been rated at all.

A large portion of the amount of reduction in the rates consequent upon the regulations of the Board consists of illegal charges which might have been avoided under the old system; expensive tavern bills, costly removals by overseers, appeals at sessions, allowances to overseers. To such an excess, indeed, had this latter custom been carried, that in Suffolk the Act 59 Geo. 3, authorizing the payment of a salary to an assistant overseer, had been taken to entitle all overseers to remuneration for loss of time, and consequently in most of the parishes of Suffolk, in the accounts of the overseers appointed annually under 43 Elizabeth, appeared the following charge, "Allowed for serving overseer." The amount varying according to the size of the parish from 5 *l.* to 50 *l.* per year.

Appeals.

A respectable solicitor, and vestry clerk of one of the metropolitan parishes, assured me that his salary was not more than sufficient to pay his clerks; but that he looked to the law business to remunerate him; he stated moreover that he had prosecuted upwards of 40 appeals in the first 18 months after he took office. Nothing could be more loose and unsatisfactory than the way in which appeals were generally conducted.

A gentleman of great experience in these matters, clerk to the magistrates of one of the sessional divisions of Surrey, declares, that he has repeatedly seen cases of appeals brought before the sessions where he has felt himself called upon to remind the parties that they had not the shadow of a chance of succeeding; but he always found that having incurred an expensive journey, "the parish (overseer) would not be satisfied unless the appeal was heard;" in other words, if the case was not brought into court and decided, the overseers would have had some difficulty to account for the heavy amount of the expenses.

I need hardly say, that it is impossible that such abuses as those shown by the above examples to have existed under the old system can exist under the new system of poor law administration.

Difference in character and treatment of paupers.

It is satisfactory to know that the aged, infirm, and really necessitous and deserving poor under the new law are better provided for, and that attention to their wants is secured to them with a degree of comfort and a permanency which the old maladministration failed of obtaining for them. The turbulent, insolent, hereditary paupers, succeeded by threats and impositions in procuring relief, whilst the respectable aged and really deserving poor were too often left to pine unnoticed in misery and destitution.

As most of the boards of guardians of the Unions and single parishes in Surrey and Middlesex have only been established since the spring of this year, it is not possible yet to give the Board such a detailed account of their proceedings as would show the full effect of the change of system; I can however confidently predict, that the most satisfactory results will be realized throughout the two counties, results which will equal the gratifying effects that have followed the introduction of the new poor law in other districts.

Evidence of beneficial operation of the new measures.

In the Chertsey Union, from the very great attention bestowed by the chairman, Sir Edmund Currey, assisted by the other magistrates and a respectable board of guardians, the best possible results have already been attained.

Mr. Downs, the highly respectable land-agent at Dedham, Essex, who has undoubted knowledge and experience on the subject, assured me he considers that but for the new law the landed property must in some districts have sunk under the pressure of the poor-rates, and he estimates the improvement in the value of land already at 25 per cent. at least.

The reduction in the amount of the rates, large and important as it will be, is of trifling consequence when compared with the great moral improvement in the character and condition of the working classes. Reports and opinions from all the Unions and places where the regulations have been introduced, are unanimous in stating the gratifying fact that a very remarkable amendment has taken place in the conduct and appearance of the labourers and the poor generally; they are respectful in their behaviour, desirous of keeping their employment, and maintain a degree of respectability hitherto unknown to them. Relief is not refused when requisite; the guardians have in all cases evinced great humanity and consideration towards the deserving poor. But the conditions upon which relief can be obtained are altered; ragged and filthy laziness is no longer the principal qualification for obtaining relief.

Mr. Tummins, one of the guardians and a large farmer in the Croydon Union, describes the conduct of the labourers as improved to an extraordinary degree; he states that applications for work were formerly doggedly made in the following manner: "I suppose you cannot give

me

me any work?" The labourers now say, "Master, I should be very thankful if you can give me a job?" Under the old system, if a rainy day occurred the men claimed of the parish the lost time; but now, said Mr. Tummins, if I have regretted that the rain had lessened their wages, they have replied, "Never mind, master, we must do the best we can."

The alterations in the metropolis have not been confined to those parishes into which the Poor Law Commissioners have introduced their rules and regulations; in most of the other parishes the officers have, with much credit to themselves, introduced, as far as possible, the change of system, and with the best possible effect.

Circumstances co-operating with the change of system.

It has been said that, in estimating the general effect of the new poor law, it would not be right to attribute the whole of the reduction to the direct operation of the rules and regulations issued by the Board, and that many circumstances have occurred to favour the introduction of the new measures. The extraordinary activity and increase in the demand for labourers in the manufacturing districts, and the employment afforded by the railroads and other public works, have been pointed out as the causes to which the reduction is to be mainly attributed. These arguments are plausible in appearance, but do not apply to the general working of the measure, for it happens that in counties where neither railroads nor manufacturers are in existence, the once dreaded surplus labour is all locally absorbed, and not an able-bodied man is to be found out of employment. Perhaps it would be right to admit that the abundant produce of the last two years, and the consequent cheapness of all kinds of provisions, have facilitated the change of system, and will enable the Board to effect in two years what would otherwise probably have barely been realized in five.

In the agricultural districts it was said to be a measure calculated to do good to the town parishes, but was considered as offering but little advantage to country parishes. In the metropolitan and town parishes I was told it was an excellent measure for the rural districts, but it was ill adapted, and indeed impracticable, for town parishes; all however fall in with the general current, and although success is promoted or retarded exactly in proportion to the degree of energy and right feeling which are brought to bear upon the subject by the different boards of guardians, I do not know a single instance where the most beneficial effects have not been either already produced, or may not be expected shortly to be realized.

Dietaries.

One of the most important subjects connected with the relief of the poor, which now excites attention, is the regulation of the dietaries of workhouses, respecting which misconceptions exist, arising from a want of information as to the quantities of food necessary for the support of human life, or from the properties of food not being sufficiently known.

I am convinced that, at no very distant period, greater consideration will be given to this very interesting and important question. I have perhaps devoted more time to the inquiry than many have thought it worth while to bestow upon it; and as the public mind is now attracted to the question, and it may be discussed with a chance of a candid and dispassionate consideration which twelve months since could hardly have been obtained for it, I will venture to offer to the Board such observations as have occurred to me from a somewhat lengthened and minute inquiry.

Uniformity of diet as to quality can hardly be attained, nor indeed is it absolutely necessary. Provincial habits are difficult to conquer. The labourers of Norfolk and Suffolk would hardly be prevailed upon to forego their dumplings, or the Cornish men their pies; and an Irishman, a witness under the late Commission of Inquiry in Ireland, in reply to questions as to the practicability of substituting meal for the potato in Ireland, is of opinion that his countrymen would like to retain one meal of potatoes a day, "just for old acquaintance sake." A respectable farmer of Sussex related to me an interesting fact, in illustration of this provincial or national prejudice. One of the Scotch regiments during the last war was quartered in his neighbourhood previous to embarkation for the Continent. Desirous of showing at once his loyalty and his gratitude to these defenders of his country, he determined upon treating them with a good dinner of English beef, and ordered to be cooked at his own cost, without the knowledge of the men, some fine rounds of beef. Anticipating the satisfaction of the soldiers on being apprised of the treat prepared for them; what was his astonishment when the men coolly thanked him for his generosity, but left his beef, and preferred their humble mess of oatmeal!

In one of the seasons of scarcity in Ireland, when the potato crops had failed and great distress existed amongst the poor, the Marquess of Lansdowne, with his well-known humanity, sent over to his tenantry supplies of rice, oatmeal and potatoes. When his Lordship next visited his estates in Ireland, he enquired if the supplies were timely and acceptable; his kindness was acknowledged with gratitude for the oatmeal and potatoes, but the rice was new to them; no one knew its use; consultations were held; it was condemned as being intended to cause sterility, and by common consent was thrown into the sea.

In submitting my opinions to the Board, it will be essential that I should support them by reference to the relative nutritive qualities of some kinds of food, but I desire to be acquitted of any intention to enter into a discussion upon the chemical properties of food generally. I shall merely avail myself of such common heads of information as time and circumstances have thrown in my way, and leave the question in its more extended application to be settled by those who are better qualified for the undertaking.

It was stated by the Rev. —— Porteus in the year 1783, in a letter to the citizens of Glasgow, on the management of the poors' funds, that, "as it is a difficult matter to ascertain precisely what is necessary to preserve life, so it would be disagreeable to recite the history of sailors on short allowances, and other histories of a similar nature, from which alone the information could be got; wherever the starving point lies, the managers of charity

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Report of *Charles Mott*, Esq.

funds should endeavour to be above it." Without recurring to the starving point, however, or to the history of sailors on short allowance, I have confined my inquiries to the quantities of food consumed by a large portion of the population of England when in good health and exercise, and my object is to prove that by this test the dietaries recommended by the Board for adoption in the different Unions are sufficient both in quantity and quality; and that those who condemn them as insufficient are totally unacquainted with the subject upon which they so loudly declaim.

Of the six different diet-tables prepared by the Board for selection by the guardians of the Unions,

No. 1 gives an average allowance for able-bodied paupers of

	19 ounces daily	-	-	-	-	133 ounces weekly.				
No. 2	- 25 ½	—	-	-	-	-	-	178	—	
No. 3	- 24	—	-	-	-	-	-	168	—	
No. 4	- 26	—	-	-	-	-	-	182	—	
No. 5	- 20	—	-	-	-	-	-	140	—	
No. 6	- 23 ½	—	-	-	-	-	-	164	—	

No. 1 is somewhat below the quantity used by labourers generally, but taking the six together they average 23 ounces daily or 161 ounces weekly, as the allowance for an able-bodied pauper in the workhouse; and I am prepared to show that this allowance is not only sufficient, but that it exceeds the quantity consumed by agricultural labourers and mechanics, who support themselves by their own exertions.

The agricultural labourers are unable to procure for themselves and families more than an average allowance per head of 122 ounces of food (principally bread) per week, of which we will suppose that the man consumes, as his proportion, 140 ounces per week, say 134 ounces of bread and six ounces of meat. Bread contains in round numbers 800 parts in 1,000, or four-fifths, of nutritive matter, whilst the meat will yield but 333 parts in 1,000, or about one-third; they will give together 109 ounces per week, about 15 ½ ounces of nutritive matter per day as the consumption of an able-bodied labourer. These results were obtained from returns from labourers in the southern agricultural counties, and as they were selected with care, they may be fairly relied upon; they may, nevertheless, be objected to as insufficient data upon which to ground any general conclusion, inasmuch as they may be said to be confined to one class, whose income does not average for the family more than 2 *s.* per head per week, and to show only what labourers can obtain, and do not prove that labourers would not consume more if they could get it. To meet this objection, I procured a number of returns from mechanics or manufacturers living in towns, whose income averaged for their families 3 *s.* 9 *d.* per head per week, or nearly double that of the agricultural labourer.

From these statements, it appeared that the total amount of food consumed by this class of persons was greater; but from the larger proportion of meat of which their food consisted (owing to the superior facilities of obtaining it in towns), and the smaller proportion of bread in comparison with the consumption of the agricultural labourers, it did not appear that any larger amount of nutritive matter was consumed by mechanics than by agricultural labourers; but on the contrary, the quantity of nutritive matter was less. The amount of difference between the earnings of the labourer and those of the mechanic being expended, not in food, but in other necessary articles, and in rent, I thought it right to assume that I had still not obtained sufficient and satisfactory data.

In estimating the consumption of other families, I selected several cases of a better class of mechanics, equal, in number of family, to those already instanced, where, from a superiority of workmanship, the income averaged 6 *s.* 9 *d.* per head per week; and it is remarkable, that the same description of food appeared to be consumed, and as nearly as possible in the same quantity, as that consumed by the families of mechanics of less income, namely, about 16 ounces of nutritive matter daily; and the balance of the income was expended in what may be termed luxuries, such as increased rent, better clothes, an addition of tea, &c.

But as even these calculations were confined to the customary consumption of food by ordinary labourers, I thought it essential, in order to meet all doubt or hesitation, to extend my inquiries to the quantities of food consumed by men using extreme bodily exertion, as mowers or sawyers, and prize fighters when training. These laborious employments, as might be expected, require a proportionate increase of sustenance; and hence men in full health, so engaged, will consume from 27 to 30 ounces per day, equal to from 20 to 23 ounces of nutritive substance.

I may here remark, that the prevailing opinion as to the necessity for men, so occupied, to have a large supply of strong beer to support them during such labour, is perfectly erroneous. The best workmen, whilst they admit the advantage of a pint of ale daily, freely declare that a moderate allowance of good table-ale is by far the best to support a man under a long and laborious day's work. The best workmen consider that five pints of beer per day are necessary for a man during a hard day's work, such as mowing, where they are occupied perhaps 16 hours per day. The pauper washer-women of Bulcamp workhouse, Suffolk, were formerly allowed eight pints of beer per day each.

The correctness of these conclusions, respecting the quantities of food requisite for the various descriptions of labourers and others, was proved by Captain Sir Edward Parry on his last North Polar expedition, when it was expedient to limit the weight of the stock of provisions and other necessaries, for the boats' crews to facilitate their movements.

Sir

Sir Edward Parry, for some time before he commenced his harassing journey across the ice, placed himself, his officers and crew, on a limited allowance of food daily; and it was found that 10 ounces of biscuit, with nine ounces of pemmican, or animal food dried and powdered, and one ounce of cocoa, making together 20 ounces daily, were amply sufficient to support them under the ordinary exertions of sailors performing the regular ship duties. This quantity corresponds, as nearly as possible, with that consumed by our labourers and mechanics, namely, 16 ounces of nutritive matter daily for each person. It is generally admitted that the digestive organs are influenced by climate, and that in the colder regions a proportionate increase in the quantity of food is necessary for man; and on trial it was proved, that to support the harassing and exhausting labour of drawing the boats over the ice, 20 ounces were insufficient; but Sir Edward Parry states, that it was agreed by all hands that an addition of one-third of that quantity, that is to say, 27 or 28 ounces per day, would have been amply sufficient to have supported them even under all their hardships in that climate. Now this is equal to about 22 or 23 ounces of nutritive matter daily, and corresponds exactly with the quantity before stated as requisite for mowers, sawyers, pugilists when training, and others when enduring great bodily exertion. It would thus appear that, under no circumstances to which men, taken generally, are exposed, is a larger quantity than 30 ounces of solid food per day necessary, not exceeding 23 ounces of nutritive matter.

It is true, as Dr. Paris has said, that individuals differ from each other so widely in their capacities for food, "that to attempt the construction of an universal standard is little less absurd than the practice of the philosophical tailors of Laputa, who wrought by mathematical calculations, and entertained a supreme contempt for those humble and illiterate fashioners, who went to work by measuring the person." But Dr. Paris is treating of invalids. There is no want of information to guide the invalid. The sick or convalescent may learn what descriptions of food are most easily digested; but medical authors have, for the reasons assigned by Dr. Paris, almost entirely neglected the subject of food, as regards the wants of the gross population. I may also affirm, without the least offence to the profession, that the medical gentlemen differ widely in their views and opinions upon these matters; in short, they admit that the subject is not generally understood. I was told, by a highly respectable medical gentleman, in conversation upon the proposed dietary for one of the London Unions, that, in his opinion, farinaceous food was suitable for agricultural labourers, and persons accustomed to country air and exercise; but that in London and other densely populated places, he considered a greater portion of animal food requisite.

A medical gentleman of Thakenham Union, in a letter to the guardians, states, that men who have laboured all their lives in the open air have greater appetites and powers of digestion than those who have worked in towns, and is of opinion that a labouring man in that neighbourhood could not well exist, with power of doing his daily work, upon less than three ounces of meat per day, and that of the strongest quality, namely, pickled pork. Much, I admit, depends upon constitution, and the nature of their employment.

I submit, however, that although, even for persons in full health, it would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to establish any given daily quantity of food to suit the capabilities of every stomach, it is possible so to classify them, as to form a tolerably correct rule for the whole.

I have been led to believe that the result shown in the following scale may be considered as a fair estimate of the proportions of food, requisite to support human life in a sound and healthy state.

1st. For persons of moderate health or constitution, but using little exercise or exertion: Daily allowance of food, 12 to 18 ounces: In nutritive matter equal to an average daily of 10 ounces.

2d. For persons of good health, accustomed to moderate labour, as sailors and soldiers, on ordinary peace duty, or agricultural labourers or mechanics at their usual work: Daily allowance of food, 18 to 24 ounces: In nutritive matter equal to an average daily of 16 ounces.

3d. For persons subject to hard labour or other violent exertion, in good bodily health: 24 to 30 ounces of food: Equal to 22 ounces of nutritive matter.

The foregoing calculations have been made from data taken from cases indiscriminately, and I have reason to believe they will bear the test of examination; but round numbers are seldom correct, and I must beg again to disclaim any intention of offering them as infallible; they are sufficiently certain, however, for general purposes, and I feel justified in using them in reference to workhouse dietaries.

The extraordinary discrepancies exhibited on an examination of the prescribed dietaries for workhouses, are not the least remarkable of the errors introduced under the old system of management; there was no uniformity, and scarcely any limitation as to quantity, even in parishes where the arrangements were otherwise well regulated. The same observations are applicable to the dietaries of gaols: the returns of workhouses and gaol dietaries present the most striking and glaring diversities and inconsistencies. I have shown that the average quantity of food consumed by agricultural labourers does not exceed 20 ounces per day, or $15\frac{1}{2}$ ounces of nutritive substance. The allowance to transported felons averages 49 ounces per day, or nearly 38 ounces of nutritive matter; but the most extraordinary instance with which I am acquainted, of what a public writer has denominated "pot-bellied philanthropy," came under my notice at Farnham, Surrey.

On visiting the workhouse in company with the parish officers, I observed a quantity of trenchers, containing the dinner allowances, placed ready for the paupers on their return from work. I requested the governor of the workhouse to state the full quantity of food given

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daily to the paupers in Farnham workhouse; I doubted the correctness of it when produced, but the governor's representation being confirmed by the officers, that it was a fair average daily supply, I had the food placed in the scales in their presence, when it was found to weigh 66 ounces, equal to 51 ounces of nutritive matter; and the governor added, that even with this allowance the paupers often grumbled because they had not enough!

The introduction of these profuse dietaries to our workhouses and gaols, is not difficult to be accounted for; in very few instances have the persons to whose lot it has fallen to legislate upon these matters, been competent judges of the wants or necessities of the poor, or of their habits and ordinary modes of living, or the customary quantities of food consumed by labourers; our feelings mislead us, and we regulate the wants of others by our own comforts and habits.

It has been said by a writer, in allusion to the power of magistrates to order relief to paupers, "If A saw B in distress, nothing was so easy as to give an order upon C to relieve him." So in our parochial workhouses, who could blame a kind-hearted parish-officer, if on visiting the workhouse containing perhaps 50 paupers, and recognizing several old faces, he ordered each of the inmates, in addition to their other allowances, only half-a-pint of porter or beer per day; the cost would not exceed one penny per head. What would be thought of the rate-payer, who would object to such a trifling increase to the comforts of the poor? Who would risk the chance of being considered an enemy to the poor, by complaining of the cost of 4*s.* 2*d.* per day for the whole parish, to be paid out of the rates which no person could individually feel, for so praiseworthy and laudable a purpose? The practice once established, who would venture to incur the jeers of the so-called benevolent, and the execration of the paupers, by venturing to order the discontinuance of this allowance?

In this way we find, under the old system, charges were perpetuated, the most inconsistent and prejudicial, trifling in detail, but of enormous aggregate amount, producing the grossest injustice to the small rate-payers, many of whom were called upon to contribute to the support of paupers in a state of idleness, and often, as compared with the condition of their own ill-provided families, of luxury.

Now extend the operation of this very praiseworthy motive, and in all other parishes let some monopolizers of the best feelings of human nature indulge their charitable wishes at the cost of their neighbours, and like A give an order upon B to relieve C: suppose that the paupers in England, chargeable upon the poor-rates, amount to 350,000, or 2½ per cent. on a population of 14,000,000; this small charge of 1*d.* per head per day will amount to the sum of 532,291*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum. Suppose further, that this dangerous feeling should be allowed to bias the contemplated arrangements for the support of the destitute Irish, and that in making a provision for the 3,000,000 of the Irish, (the number, I believe, which it is estimated are living by mendicancy); if the influence of this "only 1*d.* per head" system should be allowed to prevail, it would burden the country for their support, with an annual charge of 4,562,500*l.*

No person, I think, can read the heart-rending accounts of the distress of the labouring poor in Ireland, without becoming a convert to the necessity of some compulsory provision being made for the destitute poor; but the description of persons to be relieved, and the extent to which relief should be afforded, form distinct and most important subjects for consideration. No discretion as to the quantities and description of food can safely be allowed, neither should local susceptibility be suffered to interfere. Even a slight approximation to the lowest of our English dietaries in quality, would have a tendency to encourage pauperism. The evidence collected by the Commissioners of Inquiry in Ireland, valuable as it is in most points, must not be relied upon, as to the quantities of food necessary for the support of the Irish generally; in short, it presents, on the part of some of the witnesses, the most glaring and absurd inconsistencies; it was partially admitted by them, that, anticipating some alteration, they had come prepared to make out the best case they could, and Mr. Power and Mr. Molloy, the Assistant-Commissioners, in giving an account of a meeting held in the barony of Gowran, in the county of Kilkenny, state that "a warm discussion arose among the poorer witnesses, as to the quantity of meal a man would consume in 24 hours. When the discussion had terminated, Mr. S. Davis remarked, that the people knew nothing of the consumption of any food but potatoes, otherwise there could have been no difficulty in answering the question. Several of the witnesses then admitted that such was almost the case, and that their guesses were rather at what they would wish to get, than what they recollected to have eaten."

It would appear, however, that the same degree of ignorance or cunning prevailed respecting the requisite quantity of potatoes; for at one of similar meetings, (barony Murrick, county Mayo, examinations taken by Rev. C. Clarke, and E. B. Molloy, esq.,) there appeared to be the difference of 100 per cent. in the presumed quantity: *John Kearns* states, that a man, his wife and three children, would require 24 stone of potatoes in the week: *John Winter* estimates the consumption of such a family at 18 stone: Rev. Mr. *M'Manus*, R. C. C., at 15 stone: Mr. *John Burke* at 12 stone.

At other meetings, we find that some of the witnesses are of opinion that 21 lbs. of potatoes per day, are enough for a man, his wife and three or four children, whilst others believe that 56 lbs. would be necessary for a family of that size; some imagine that 18 lbs. of potatoes daily are requisite for the support of a labouring man! There is a portion of nutritive matter in meadow grass, but surely it would be too much to expect a man would eat a load of hay for his dinner.

Som

Some think the quantity of potatoes named, would be sufficient also to keep a pig; indeed I can only account for the supposed necessity of these manifestly disproportioned allowances, by presuming that when the families have been named, the pig has generally been considered as one of them.

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The nutritive properties of the potato varies according to the quality; the best potatoes will produce 30 parts in 100 of nutritive matter, whilst the inferior will only give 25 parts in 100. Bread two days old, will yield about 80 parts in 100, and I have already stated that the agricultural English labourers, who live principally on wheaten bread, obtain about 15½ ounces of nutritive matter daily.

Now, taking the lowest estimate for the potato, or 25 parts in 100 of nutritive matter, some of the witnesses in Ireland would make it appear that 70 ounces of nutritive substance daily are requisite for the support of a labouring man in Ireland, being above four times as much as the labourers and mechanics consume or require in England.

I find that my view of this important subject would lead me beyond the strict object of my report; but this subject is not unworthy of notice. It is time that a stand should be made against those who advocate the necessity of the adoption of metropolitan or town dietaries for the paupers generally. The aged and infirm poor, and the young children, are protected by the rules and regulations of the Commissioners; being dieted at the discretion of the guardians, or of the medical gentlemen. In relieving the wants of the other classes of paupers, we should recollect the caution of the late Dr. Watson, Bishop of Llandaff; that we are bound to do it in such a manner " as to afford no encouragement to idleness, no excuse for inconsideration."

Dr. Arnott, in his report upon the state of the establishment at Norwood for pauper children, has truly stated, " It is for their own future happiness, not less than for the welfare of the community, that, consistently with the preservation of bodily health, due training and discipline in all respects should be rigid, and for the same reason that ribbons are not added to the substantial dress of the pauper girls, to gratify their vanity and produce associations we have spoken of, savory meats should not be substituted for diet equally wholesome, which costs much less, and has to be supplied by the industry of ratepayers, many of whom can barely give such to their own children."

Conclusion.
General results.

In concluding my Report, I cannot sufficiently express the obligations I feel to the noblemen, magistrates and gentlemen of the districts which I have visited, for their cordial support in forming the Unions, and for their very valuable assistance in forwarding the views of the Poor Law Commissioners. Many of them have given their time and attention at great personal sacrifice, particularly those who have undertaken the task of acting as chairmen and vice-chairmen of the boards of guardians. I will venture, however, to express my conviction, that another year's experience of the vast benefits to be derived from the new system of poor law management, will leave them no cause to regret the time they have so devoted to the service of their districts. The restoration of habits of industry and frugality, the increase of deposits in savings' banks, the introduction of self-supporting medical clubs, and a vast extension of benefit clubs and similar societies amongst the poor, are some of the results which begin to show themselves in various districts. When these shall have been perfected, when the means of obtaining information, by correspondence with the different boards of guardians, shall have been established, and local information on all subjects can be procured in a short space of time, with facilities hitherto unattainable; when, in short, the new system, in all its branches, is fully and properly developed, it cannot fail to produce results which will procure for it the support, and for its originators the gratitude, of the country.

Charles Mott,
London, 30 July 1836. Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

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REPORT on the County of *Devon*, by *William John Gilbert*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Gentlemen, Torquay, 24 June 1836.

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Report of
W. J. Gilbert, Esq.

The first annual Report explained the principles of the Poor Law Amendment Act; the public are now desirous of knowing the progress made in carrying its provisions into execution. I shall confine myself in this Report to the particular operation of the new system in this county, pointing out any peculiarities observable in the operation of the poor laws here, and calling your attention to some alterations which I conceive would be improvements.

Although a considerable period has elapsed since the last annual report of the Poor Law Commission, the operations of the new law in this county are as recent as they were last year in the counties then in Union. The results, however, as far as the time allows, fully support its chief principles, namely, the improvement of the labouring classes, and the reduction of the rates.

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Report of *W. J. Gilbert*, Esq.

Shortly after the publication of the last annual report I left Buckinghamshire in Union, under the provisions of the Act, and was directed by the Board to commence inquiries in Devonshire, to which county my proceedings have been since confined.

Buckinghamshire was one of the most heavily burthened counties in the kingdom, where the abuses of an ill-administered law were the greatest. Devonshire, on the other hand, was considered in better circumstances; the prevailing evils had not been so established as to press with severity on the rate-payers, or to have deeply pauperised the labouring classes: and an opinion extensively prevailed that interference was uncalled for. It was known that the Unions had removed deep-rooted abuses; but here the pressure of the same evils was comparatively so light, that the probability of improvement was denied.

Disturbances and weight of pauperism in North Molton.

My attention, in the first instance, was drawn to the parish of North Molton, situate in the north of Devon, where the abuses were considered to form an exception to the general state of the county. The small shopkeeper had obtained considerable influence, and great profit, at the expense of the parish. The vestry was in continual alarm at the threats and depredations of the labourers, and yielded to their threatening demands. Nearly the whole of the labouring population were, during winter, entirely supported by the parish; and their conduct and character were such as to make them the terror of the neighbourhood. All who spoke of the contemplated changes in poor law administration surmised that these deep-rooted abuses were unconquerable, and asserted confidently that nothing could either drive or encourage the labourers to industry. The parish was, however, included in the Union of South Molton, which was shortly afterwards declared. The board of guardians acting under rules similar to those issued for the Unions in Buckinghamshire and other counties already united, soon obtained the same results as in the other counties.

On the introduction of the system of relief in kind, the pauperised labourers and others of this parish resisted the orders of the board, refused the relief, ill treated the relieving officer, and during the night committed some damage, their usual and successful method of dealing with overseers whenever their demands were resisted. Lord Ebrington, the vice-lieutenant of the county, accompanied me several times to the parish during these disturbances. On one occasion the rate-payers and shopkeepers were assembled by the principal owner in the parish, when I explained to them how futile must be their resistance to the law, and assured them that so far from their mistaken conduct producing the effect they promised themselves, the very reverse would be the result of their proceedings; that their demands would not be listened to in their present turbulent state; and that they had no longer overseers to deal with, or single individuals who could be intimidated by their their threats, but a board of guardians determined to execute the law without fear or local bias, whilst they supported that distinction between the aged and infirm, the really afflicted and destitute, and the able-bodied wilful idler, which it was the object of their riotous proceedings to destroy.

Effect of the proceedings of North Molton Union.

The disturbances at North Molton, however, continued after this expostulation; the beer-shops were crowded, and nightly mischief of a serious description continued to be perpetrated. The board of guardians persisting in their previous determination, prepared one of the parish workhouses, and passed a resolution that no relief should be given to any able-bodied pauper of North Molton, except in the workhouse. On the promulgation of this order, a change in the conduct and appearance of the labourers became almost immediately perceptible. The threatening language ceased, all nightly damage was discontinued, the beer-shops were deserted, and the men all resorted to their work; not one came into the workhouse. Some, however, as a last experiment, came before the board for relief, and orders for the workhouse were given them. The next week no further applications were made, and all the men were found at work, affording another instance of the fallacy of the opinions that the offer of workhouse relief to able-bodied paupers would lead to disturbance.

The public is much indebted to the zealous perseverance of the chairman, Lord Ebrington, and the Rev. W. Karslake, for their great exertions, as well in effecting this change, as in all the other operations of the Union. At an earlier stage of proceedings, the latter gentleman, conceiving the changes effected by the new law to be fraught with harshness and severity, had felt much objection to them; he, however, no sooner perceived their real nature, than he became one of the most strenuous advocates of the Union.

The South Molton board has also issued an order refusing relief to bastards, unless they and their mothers come into the workhouse. The Union is now, with the exception of two or three cases, dispauperised of that class; and the guardians are prepared to confine the relief of all the able-bodied in the Union to the workhouse.

The Unions of Bideford, Barnstaple, Torrington and Tiverton, in the same county, were declared at the same time, and similarly constituted. Five other Unions have since commenced, and three others are now declared, and have held their first meetings. These Unions comprise the whole of Devonshire, except the parishes around Tavistock, Holsworthy and Plymouth.

The guardians of these boards are zealous in the performance of their duties; and throughout this large district all the principal residents and respectable yeomen appear sensible of the benefit to be derived from the new law.

That Devonshire could not receive any advantage from the change is an opinion now abandoned. The question now with a parish is seldom whether a Union is desirable, but only in what Union the particular parish shall be included.

Saving in Barnstaple Union.

The population of the Barnstaple Union is 33,198, and the average annual expenditure previous to the Union was 11,677*l*. It was the common opinion that whatever other effects might

might follow, it was impossible there could be any reduction in expense during the winter months; however, in the infancy of its proceedings, and under the disadvantage of much opposition to the execution of their measures, this Union has, from the 1st February to the 25th March, expended only 1,097*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*

	£.	s.	d.
For Relief - - - - - -	919	15	4
Establishment - - - - -	177	11	5

Relief.

Assuming that the summer months would be as expensive as the winter, which is not to be expected, a reduction of nearly 50 per cent. will take place in this Union.

As an instance of the great zeal displayed by the guardians at the outset of their duties, it is worthy of remark, that when the Barnstaple Union would have been much inconvenienced by the sudden resignation of a relieving officer, the chairman, J. P. B. Chichester, esq., the Member of Parliament for the borough, immediately undertook the duties himself, till an officer could be appointed.

Office of auditor.

All the officers of these Unions except the auditor have been appointed as in other counties. This officer's duties being to determine upon the legality of payments, and erase any sums from the accounts improperly paid, should be perfectly free from all local bias or influence. He should also have as extensive experience as possible in parochial accounts, and in the forms and modes of keeping them, according to the orders of the board. A single Union is seldom large enough to secure these advantages in the appointment of an auditor: chosen by a comparatively small number of electors, it is more than probable he will be so connected, either by the ties of relationship or business, with the parties whose accounts he will have to audit, as to incumber him in the independent discharge of his duties, and motives of interest or partiality may induce him to pass over items that in strictness should be disallowed. An instance of this evil presented itself to me in Buckinghamshire, on the application of a person who wished to fill some office under the Unions. He called on me, he said, expressly to know what appointments the board had to make, and on my explaining to him the different offices, and stating that the salary of the clerk would probably be the largest, he said, "I shall try for the auditorship, for in that office I can oblige my clients, which will pay me better than the clerk's salary." To obtain a person free from these objections, and possessing the advantage of experience, I proposed to the five North Devon Unions that they should unite for the purpose, if possible, of obtaining an auditor free from the objections, and possessing the qualifications pointed out, to which they readily assented.

Unions united for the purpose of electing a common auditor.

Each board appointed a committee, consisting of three of the members. Their duty was to meet similar committees from the other Unions, that they might advertise for an auditor, receive and examine testimonials and qualifications, and report to the respective boards the person they found the most eligible. The result has been most satisfactory, and a gentleman having high qualifications has been appointed to the five Unions.

The other five Unions already in operation have adopted a similar course, and have been equally successful.

Apprenticeship.

The chief peculiarity which distinguishes the relief in this county is the extensive application of the statutes authorizing parish apprenticeship, which, in others, are used only to a limited extent, or altogether unknown.

Great variety of opinion prevails in the county on this subject. Many consider the apprenticeship system altogether bad, and would repeal the statutes. Others approve of the system, but dislike the mode in which it is exercised in their district. Others wish only for a modification, some suggesting that in no case and on no party should the apprenticeship be compulsory. Others, that it should be compulsory on the applicant for relief; others, again, that it should be compulsory on the rate-payer only.

All statutes levying taxes for the maintenance of the poor are grounded on the principle that no person shall be allowed to perish for want, and that the expenditure under such acts shall be for providing absolute necessaries and nothing else.

The whole system of apprenticeship, as I find it administered in this part of the country, appears to me to have originated against, and in contradiction to these principles; engrafting upon poor laws as a principal, not a secondary object, a system of instruction, and that a defective one. As regards the maintenance of the children of labourers, the apprenticeship system attempts to effect that upon the same false principles upon which the labour-rate was established, entailing all the evils and inequality of charge consequent upon that system.

The view in which the system of apprenticeship is practised here is presented for consideration chiefly with respect to the compulsory binding, as compared to the voluntary hiring.

I will first state the effects of the compulsory binding, as I found it in this county affecting the master, the parent, the child and the parish.

In the arrangement for allotting the apprentices and determining to what rate-payers they shall from time to time be bound, as many different modes exist as there are members of parishes, or at least magisterial divisions. There are but few parishes whose arrangements are in this respect alike.

In some the plan is that all persons rated in respect of property of the value of 50*l.*, or some other given sum, shall take an apprentice for every such sum, and all property under that value contribute to the maintenance of the apprentice by paying the master a sum in proportion to the amount of their respective properties. In others the parish law is that each

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each rate-payer, in respect of each tenement or holding, shall take an apprentice, and in others the same rules prevail, with modifications of their chief features.

Under the first mentioned arrangements it not unfrequently happens that a single person has several apprentices fixed upon him for whom he has no use, and for whom in his house he has no room. In such a case as this the master is either obliged to get rid of the burthen at a great expense, or to retain the apprentice greatly to his own inconvenience and to the injury of the child.

In other cases a complete market is made of these apprentices. They are no sooner bound and the several contributions from the smaller holders received, than they are assigned for a consideration less than the amount received from the contributors.

In other cases they are taken, the contributions paid, the apprentices induced to desert, and the apprenticeship annulled.

In all these cases the system acts either injuriously on the particular master or on the rest of the rate-payers.

In the second arrangement, the better class of labourers who might otherwise improve their condition and raise themselves to that of small farmers, are prevented from taking the first step, for the allotment of an apprentice is their ruin. The control of the vestry rests generally with the large rate-payers, who, by allotting apprentices to a small rate-payer, can either prevent his rise or crush his advance, or by allotting apprentices of worthless and bad character to respectable families, can practice extortion to what extent they please. A bad character by being sent first to one and refused, and then to another, is an annuity to the parish, by the fines paid to avoid the burthen.

The master, on being compelled to take an apprentice, generally receives him reluctantly, regards him as a burthen, and seldom is actuated towards him by feelings of kindness. In many cases they are kept in a state little better than, and regarded very little above, the domestic animals of the farm. They are on a footing lower than the lowest hired servant in the house, and, without the slightest regard to their instruction or fitness for the work, are ordered to do whatever occasion may call for; the female apprentices are frequently put to work, which, except in these cases, is exclusively the work of males; and, on the other hand, the male apprentices are frequently put to female occupations.

The better character the farmer has, the more subject he is to have apprentices; for a character for humanity brings apprentices upon him, whilst the man with a character for brutality escapes the burthen.

To have an apprentice discharged on the ground of severity in the master, is a benefit that frees him from the future burthens of that class of pauperism, the system giving the rate-payers an interest in a disreputable character. Many men, I believe, under such a system, have assumed a character of harshness and severity, and have ultimately had all their kind feeling destroyed; the best men have borne the burthen, the worst have escaped.

On the parent the effect is still more injurious than on the master. The age fixed for apprenticeship in almost all parishes is nine. At that age the care and responsibility of the parent and the duty and obedience of the child cease; the chord that bound them together is severed; the child is an apprentice, looking to the master for all favours, for all affection, and the parent is quite a secondary character in the most active scenes of life.

The consciousness of this separation, not of person only, but of interest, necessarily creates in pauper parents a comparative indifference about the child. They feel that in all the chief scenes of life the care and responsibility of the child will rest with another; their parental feelings are weakened. The remaining interest in their child they but too generally exercise only in exciting him to acts of disobedience and annoyance to his master, upon whom they look as an enemy; they occasion the child not only to commit acts of disobedience, but create in him habits of insubordination, that through life render him worthless.

Under such a system the people become pauperized in their habits and characters. As the parish is to relieve parents from the chief obligation which nature has imposed on them, the care of their offspring, they look to the same source in all the lesser responsibilities; and those ties which ought to excite exertion and engender independence, thus perverted, become the means of pauperism, both of person and mind.

On the child the evils are reciprocal with those on the parent. From his earliest years having looked upon the parish as his parent, he reviews his pauperism without regret, and hesitates not to return to it in every contingency.

The same cause that severed the affections of the parent from the child, now separates those of the child from the parent, and in his old age he is referred to the parish, the mutual parent of both, for the last offices of support and affection.

Placed with his master by compulsion, the apprentice regards him neither with gratitude nor affection; he performs doggedly the exact work assigned; and, encouraged by his parents, practises upon him every species of annoyance. A continuance in such a state of feeling, and a constant repetition of disobedience, beget a habit of mind, and form a character not calculated to make either a good servant or an useful member of the community.

The time fixed for the apprenticeship is generally till the age of 21. To the contract which thus disposes of the person, the child himself is not a consenting party, but his time and his labour are arbitrarily fixed for him. During childhood the actions and the will should be subject to the control of others; but when that age is attained at which a man's own will should be the guide of his actions, to deprive him of this and subject his actions and his liberty to the will of another, comprise all that forms the essential in the definition of slavery.

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The age at which the free exercise of the will may be conceded, is a question that has excited discussion, and created differences among the wisest jurists. Different ages have been assigned, not only with regard to particular classes of society, and the different sexes, but with regard to the different acts to be done. The statutes enforcing the contracts between masters and servants, for hiring and service, have treated such contracts as binding at a much earlier age than 21. In manufacturing districts it has been officially ascertained, that where the apprenticeship system is disused, the children make their own bargains at 13 years of age. The Legislature, in the Act of Parliament constituting this Commission, with regard to the labouring population and their maintenance, appears to have fixed the age at 16; when they are generally treated as self-dependent, and are removed from the father's family, as no longer dependent on him.

The mischief arising from this cause is to be found, with but few exceptions, in all cases of compulsory apprenticeship; the same characteristics that mark the slave, are to be found in the parish apprentice. Of moral feeling and moral obligation to discharge the duties of the service there is a total absence. Either brute force or the terror of legal punishment can exact the service after the age of discretion. The indisposition to serve is shown in numerous ways, in neglect of work, in acts of annoyance, in secret damage, in breaking from the house at night, poaching and marauding and absconding, in offences committed avowedly to obtain a discharge.

The character of the apprentice from this age to the termination of his apprenticeship, gradually deteriorates, and at the end the objected practices have formed into fixed habits. Some apprentices overcome all those disadvantages; but these are mere cases of exception.

Looking at the parish collectively as a body of rate-payers, the system is equally contrary to sound principles, and equally injurious. The system as regards taxation generally, and then as a means of equalizing a particular burthen among the several parties subject to it, remains to be considered. In both it appears to me, on examination, to be defective.

One great object in levying taxes is, so to raise the required amount as to render the payment least perceptible and least burthensome to the payers. Of all means devised for the support and maintenance of any class of the community, that which obliges the inhabitants not only to find the necessary supplies, but to submit to the additional burthens of admitting the dependent party an inmate of the house, is the most objectionable, and the least tolerable of any. It partakes of the nature of billet, which, from its arbitrary character, is never resorted to but in extreme cases, where no other provision can be made. The apprenticeship system invades domestic privacy, and to an extent converts every man's cottage to a parish poor-house. Of all inmates a parish apprentice is often found to be the most annoying and harassing; hostile both in conduct and disposition to the master of the house, he becomes the ready listener and retailer of falsehood and scandal of the family affairs, and the ready agent of mischief of the parents or other persons ill disposed to the employer. He cannot be trusted, and yet cannot be dismissed. As the time increases so does the annoyance, becoming worse and worse every day, and inflicting an increasing burthen for 12 years. No ingenuity could devise a mode of taxation more obnoxious than this. Some persons have so great an aversion to receive these apprentices, that they avoid settling in parishes where the apprenticeship system exists, and others who have apprentices have been known to encourage the committal of crime by the males, and prostitution by the females, as causes to obtain their release from the oppression.

Looking at the question in the other view, as the means of equalizing the burthen of the rate-payers, objections arise similar to those in the case of the labour-rate. No arrangements have yet been successful in so distributing the burthen as to make it rest equally on all. If the allotment is fixed among the rate-payers according to a certain sum, it bears most unequally; a person having a particular occupation, or having a family capable of doing all the work required of the apprentice, finds the child a total burthen; whilst by a person differently circumstanced the expense or trouble of the apprentice is scarcely felt. One person's house may not be suited to the admission of another inmate, whilst another affords every convenience. One has an apprentice bound capable to discharge the particular work required, whilst another has one totally unfit for the only occupation there is: to the one person the burden would be much greater than the other, and the weight of taxation unequal. The allotment of the apprentices being in the hands generally of the vestry, great injustice and oppression are often inflicted. It is very commonly found by new occupants in the parish that they no sooner are fixed in their dwellings, than they receive a notice to take an apprentice.

In some parishes the most improper characters have been selected as apprentices; children of prostitutes have been allotted to schoolmistresses and persons similarly situated, solely with the object of extorting the fine on refusal to take them.

There were some small cottages which let for 10 *l.* per annum. One of these was taken by a lieutenant in the army, who had retired upon his half-pay, the whole income he possessed. His family consisted of himself, his wife, two children and one servant. To the house there was only a small piece of garden, and there were no means of occupation for an apprentice. The overseers watched the progress of the furniture to the house, and saw the lieutenant take possession, and a very few days after called to say it was his turn to take an apprentice, and that he must do so or pay 10 *l.* What arrangements the parish had made, or whether it was the turn of the house, he could never learn, being totally unacquainted with the affairs of the parish.

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On this subject Mr. *Bidwell*, who, as guardian of the parish of St. Thomas, effected great improvements there, in consequence of which and his general intelligence he has been appointed clerk to the board of the St. Thomas Union, states:

"In 1818, I found compulsory binding prevalent here. Occasional lists of bindable children were given by the overseer to the constable, whose duty it was to bind them on the occupiers of every house or farm of 10 *l.* per annum or upwards, in turn. What effect this system had upon the apprentice, I am not prepared to say, because my attention was not then drawn to it, and because, being forced upon the taker, he either paid the fine of 10 *l.*, and the child was passed to the next in turn or assigned to some stranger out of the parish, and lost sight of by me. But this system opening the door to fraudulent binding upon ignorant and defenceless parties out of their turn, in order to extort money, and also inflicting the same burden upon a mere 10 *l.* renter as upon the largest occupier of his own property, I with difficulty prevailed upon the parish to offer a 5 *l.* fee with each child out of the poor-rates; since which compulsory binding has ceased with us, so far as it concerns the master, there being always applicants sufficient to absorb the supply, and by allowing the parents some time to look out, they most frequently found places for their children themselves, thus giving a better chance for the mutual satisfaction of the parties."—(*See Mr. Bidwell's Evidence*, p. 324.)

Looking, therefore, at compulsory apprenticeship, whether as regards the master or the parent, it appears to me highly objectionable; and also as regards the apprentice after the age of 16.

As a means of providing education, or of affording employment by an equal charge upon the inhabitants, it is a total failure. The committal of crimes by the males, and prostitution by the females, as the means of annulling the apprenticeship, are encouraged. A strong case instancing this is related to me by a member of the the Totnes board: a master to whom a female was apprenticed being desirous of getting the indenture cancelled, and having no sufficient charge to bring against the girl, bribed one of his labourers with the promise of a leg of mutton and a sovereign, to be paid on the apprentice being big with child. In other cases there is either no employment or none suitable, and at all events, whatever the employment, it could be obtained as easily by independent application as by parish apprenticeship; and so far from equalizing the burdens of the parish, this system, like the labour-rate, to which it is analogous, enables the larger rate-payer to oppress and practise extortion on the smaller.

Whether it would be beneficial that the parishes or boards of guardians should retain the power of binding apprentices, with the consent of both master and parent, depends upon other considerations, but certainly they should not have the power, for the reasons before stated, of placing the apprentice himself under compulsory and arbitrary service after the age of 16.

As, however, the master would be relieved from the obligation, few would be found consenting to take an apprentice for this time, and the power would be seldom or never exercised.

To get children apprenticed till that age, it would be necessary to pay a premium, and the premium would be the only consideration inducing the master to take the apprentice. Such a person would in all probability be needy, and one with whom it would, in the generality of cases, not be desirable to place out a youth or to confide, in consideration of his promise to maintain the child, the property of the parish.

It may be said that all these evils were foreseen by the Legislature when they passed the Act, for they provided for them by requiring the consent of the magistrates. It is true that evils were seen in the system; but if the tribunal of the magistrates was intended to prevent them, it has certainly failed of its desired effect, for notwithstanding the power given, the evils still exist. How is it possible that the magistrates or any court can see all the nice circumstances which constitute the propriety or impropriety of a particular apprenticeship, as regards the fitness of the master or of the apprentice, neither of whom in all probability have they seen, and the very names of whom are unknown till read in the indenture already written and prepared by the clerk? How are the magistrates to know that the particular master and the particular apprentice are so suited to each other, that, for the term of 12 years, it is desirable they should be bound to fill the relative situations of master and servant; or how, looking at all the rate-payers and all the pauper children, can any magistrate say that particular apprentice in preference to any other should be bound to that particular master. Can a court, sitting as a bench of magistrates, by any possibility possess itself of all the minute circumstances, the knowledge of which is necessary to afford a just judgment on the subject? It is impossible it can. The magistrates can know as little of these matters as they did under the old law, of the particulars necessary to enable them to judge correctly in cases of applicants for relief; and the same reasons that induced the Legislature to repeal the provisions giving them power in those cases, are equally strong to show the inadequacy of their situation to decide in these. The insufficiency of the tribunal is to be shown in the great number of apprenticeships the results of which are most unfortunate, for scarcely a week passes in which the county papers do not contain advertisements for runaway apprentices. In these advertisements the apprentices are described after the manner of stolen horses; the colour of their hair, the peculiarity of their features, the height of their persons, the dress they wore when they left, all terminating with the offer of a reward to any person who shall cause them to be apprehended.

I think also that the power of consenting to apprenticeships (should the system be reserved) might with advantage be deputed to the boards, of which all the magistrates resident within the

the limits of the Union are *ex-officio* members; the power of hearing the complaints between master and apprentice being left of course exclusively in the hands of the magistrates.

In making these remarks I would beg not to be misunderstood as casting any reflections on the magistrates themselves, but merely as pointing out the inapplicability of the tribunal to the purpose intended.

It would doubtless be asked, if the powers of apprenticeship are to be abolished, what is to become of that class which has by its means before been provided for?

The same question was asked on the proposal to abolish the labour-rate system, and at the commencement of our proceedings with regard to the able-bodied. It was said, if you refuse to make up wages, or to act upon a labour-rate, what will you do with the able-bodied, with the surplus population, whom, without the wages are made up from the rate, the farmers will not employ?

And to this I would give the same answer the practical results of this measure have given to those questions; that the system has made the class, and that if you destroy the system, the class will cease. The same means that now feed and clothe those children, through the intervention of the parish, will feed and clothe them through the independent competition of labour.

Instead of the parish the parent will be the active agent in providing for the child. In many parishes in this county, and in many entire counties, the system of apprenticeship has never been used, or is abolished, and yet the children are employed and maintained. This was the case under the old system of administration, when there was no inducement to avoid the parish; and under the present circumstances the strict distinction made between pauperism and independence will afford additional facilities in relieving the parish from the burthen of apprenticeship by giving new stimulus to independent labour.

As a mode of taxation, and in all respects looking at the system in a pecuniary point of view, it is highly objectionable. As one of instruction it has been a total failure; and in a moral point of view the results are fraught with evil.

Having reviewed the system of apprenticeship in the different lights it has presented itself to my mind, and having considered the various opinions received on the subject, I am inclined to feel strongly that the whole system might be safely and beneficially annulled, or at least limited to those cases where the parent and master may consent, and the apprenticeship terminate at 16, if the few instances in which this power would be put in practice are of sufficient importance to warrant the retention of any part of the system.

Amongst other evidence I have received relating to the system of compulsory apprenticeship I beg to add the following, given to me in answer to the question, "Is it your opinion that any beneficial alteration could be made in the present system of allotting or of binding parish apprentices in your Union?"

Compulsory apprenticeship. Evidence.

J. W. Buller, esq., chairman of Crediton Union, states: The expediency of continuing the system of compulsory apprenticeship has engaged the attention of the county, and a committee of magistrates was appointed some time ago to consider the subject. If I remember rightly, that committee did not pronounce a decided opinion on the principle, but recommended, as a temporary measure, that apprenticeships should commence at a later and terminate at an earlier period than is the case at present. The inclination of my opinion, formed from several years' experience in a populous district, is against the continuance of compulsory apprenticeship. It is indefensible in principle, as it is an interference with the free market of labour; and I believe it to be inexpedient and injurious in practice. The apprentice in the early period of his servitude is a burthen to the master, and in the concluding part too frequently becomes discontented and refractory when he feels himself deprived of the fair remuneration for his labour by an arrangement to which he was not a consenting party. There is not that salutary inducement to industry and good behaviour on the part of the apprentice, or to kindness and consideration on that of the master, which is furnished where the relation of master and servant subsists; and the defects of the system are strongly illustrated by the complaints which are frequently made to me by masters against their apprentices for idleness, insubordination and irregularities of various kinds, and by apprentices against their masters for neglect or too severe correction. The system of compulsory binding has been abandoned in several parishes by consent, and so far from any inconvenience having been experienced in consequence, I am assured that the alteration has been found in every instance beneficial.

In compliance with your request, I will furnish you with a statement of three complaints which have been preferred by masters against their apprentices. It would be very easy for me to multiply instances of the same kind if necessary, for they occur at almost every petty sessions that is held at Crediton:

1. 17 June 1836.—Mr. Daniel Tremlett, an opulent yeoman of Crediton, complained to the magistrates that Jane Bennett, aged 19, his female apprentice, had been guilty of many acts of misconduct and disobedience, and had run away from him for the purpose of obtaining a situation as a servant in Exeter. Mr. Tremlett said he regretted to be compelled to make this complaint, but he trusted the magistrates would commit the apprentice to the house of correction, for he had seven apprentices in his house, and unless an example were made he was afraid he should lose all control over them. He had found the clothes of two other apprentices in the loft packed up in a bundle, and he believed they were only waiting for a favourable opportunity of running away. He could not tell why they were all discontented, for he treated them with great kindness, and he was certain they had no reasonable cause to be dissatisfied. The magistrates asked the apprentice and her mother, who was also in attendance, whether either of them had any complaint to prefer against the master, and they said

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said they had not. The apprentice, on being pressed to assign a reason for her misconduct, said her clothes were not so good as she thought they ought to be.

2. Mr. Sharland, a respectable tanner of Cheriton, Fitzpaine, complained of his apprentices, particularly of the oldest of them, who, besides other acts of misconduct, had neglected the horses under his care, and had told his master he should attend to them when and how he pleased. The magistrates told the young man that they would not commit him to prison if he would merely express contrition for his disobedience, and promise them that he would behave better in future. He replied, it was better not to make any promises, for the same thing would probably happen again; and the master said he believed he wished to be committed, as he and the apprentices in general entertained the opinion that if they behaved so ill as to be committed, they should be free from their apprenticeship at the expiration of their imprisonment; and a farmer present observed, that many of the apprentices said they did not care if they were committed to prison, for they could only be made to work there as they did already at home, for nothing.

3. Mr. Gregory, a respectable farmer, residing at Park-in-Crediton, complained of one of his apprentices, who was about 17 years old, for impertinence and disobedience. He said that the boy did exactly as he liked, and paid no attention to his orders. If the master threatened to correct him, the boy told him to take care of himself, and that he would soon see which was the better man. The master said he was so troublesome, that he wished that the magistrates would discharge him; but this they declined to do, as it would have been a premium on misconduct.

James Maunder, an able-bodied labourer in husbandry, complained that he could not obtain a place for his son, who was 11 years old, and a very steady and well-disposed lad. The farmers to whom he had applied told him, that they had no vacancy, as they must take the boys bound out by the parish; and the overseers refused to give a parish indenture, because they must find places for the children of paupers. He thought it very hard that he, who had brought up and maintained a large family by his own industry and without any assistance from the parish, should be unable to procure a place for his child, while places were immediately provided for the children of those who had made themselves paupers by their idle and dissolute habits. I mention this last case to show that by the present system there is a direct interference with the market of labour, and that the independent labourers feel the inconvenience.

The overseers have in general allowed a parish indenture to the child of every deserving man, but it has always been made a matter of favour, and never granted without difficulties and objections being raised. It is quite clear that where farmers are liable to take from six to ten apprentices, they cannot require the services of the young children of independent labourers.

Mr. *James G. Bidwell*, formerly guardian of the parish of St. Thomas, near Exeter, states: "In 1818, I found compulsory apprenticeship prevalent in the parish of St. Thomas. Occasional lists of bindable children were given by the overseer to the constable, whose duty it was to bind them on the occupiers of every house or farm of 10 *l.* per annum or upwards, in turn. What effect this system had upon the apprentice I am not prepared to say, because my attention was not then drawn to it, and because being forced upon the taker he paid the fine of 10 *l.*, and the child was passed to the next in turn or assigned to some stranger out of the parish, and lost sight of by me; but this system opening the door to fraudulent binding upon ignorant and defenceless parties out of their turn, in order to extort money, and also inflicting the same burthen upon a mere 10 *l.* renter as upon the largest occupier of his own property, I with difficulty prevailed upon the parish to offer a 5 *l.* fee with each child out of the poor-rates; since which compulsory binding has ceased with us, so far as it concerns the master, there being always applicants sufficient to absorb the supply, and by allowing the parents some time to look out they most frequently found places for their children themselves, thus giving a better chance for the mutual satisfaction of the parties.

"Under these circumstances much of the evil of the system has escaped my observation, though I have seen enough of it to induce me to think there is more evil in it than good; and believing the new poor law will obviate the necessity for its continuance, I should recommend the abrogation of the laws for binding parish apprentices without any modification or substitution, as I am fully convinced the workhouse system will operate as an equal and efficient check upon voluntary pauperism, without the hostile feelings compulsory binding too often engenders in the minds of all parties to the indenture.

"On looking back to circumstances in this parish, where apprenticeship has taken perhaps its mildest form, I recollect but too many cases of moral depravity occurring: one master expressing fear for the pecuniary consequences of the misconduct of his apprentices, but evincing an utter disregard for every vice to which he or she might be exposed when there was no danger of the penalties of their misconduct falling on himself, leaving them to prostitution, and expressing a hope for their pregnancy as a means of mutual release from the compulsory legal obligation. In another instance, I had reason to believe an apprentice had a child both by the father and the son; and the general treatment of their apprentices was so bad, that the magistrates refused to bind upon them, threatening whenever it came to their turn to take, that they would, instead of binding, levy a fine of 10 *l.*, but which they never attempted, knowing they had no such power; the parties thus evaded taking apprentices if they wished it, or, if not, procured them from distant places, with a premium of 5 *l.* or perhaps 10 *l.* In another instance, where there were always three or four apprentices,

I believe

I believe I may say not one ever turned out well, but as they grew up they invariably became thieves or prostitutes. I could multiply cases of this sort.

"It would be right perhaps to mention, that the 5*l.* fee is scarcely, if ever, taken by respectable educated persons, as it does not offer them a sufficient inducement to take the apprentice. The premium is generally applied for by the small country farmer, with the view perhaps of making up his rent; it is certainly never laid out in clothes, the professed object for which it is granted. In reality, the apprentice fee is often nothing more than a bribe for the riddance of the burthen of one parish by fixing it on another.

"There is a further evil in the litigation it occasions on questions of settlement, which alone is sufficient to justify its repeal. In closing these observations, I would add, that in practice the magisterial control is inefficient for its desired purpose, offering no sufficient check on the bad conduct of the master, but only the means of vexatiously annoying him when the child or his parents desire so to use it."

Mr. *Manley*, guardian of the Tiverton Union, states: The compulsory power of binding apprentices is a positive act of cruelty to the child and of injustice to the master. No domestic apprentice should be bound without the consent of all the parties. The apprentice system, as now or lately acted upon in this county, has been found to render the parents careless as to the bringing up and moral conduct of their children, knowing that at nine or 10 years of age they will be removed from them. The master is then obliged to receive into his family a child so brought up, and with morals more likely to contaminate his own children than to make a good and useful servant.

J. H. Veale, Esq., ex-officio Guardian of the Okehampton Union, states: I will mention a few objections against the compulsory system of apprenticeship which have struck me.

1. It is a partial burthen, as only the more opulent rate-payers are compelled to take apprentices or pay the fine on refusal.
2. Binding is considered a degradation both by parents and children.
3. If parents do not approve of the master or mistress to whom their child is bound, they often excite the child to disobedience, in order to get the indenture cancelled.
4. Apprentices are often made the slaves of the whole household, being obliged to do the bidding of servants as well as masters; their education is often neglected, and they are seldom sent to any place of worship.
5. Female apprentices are often sent into the fields to take the proper employment of men and boys, and are not trained to household work, or to knit and sew; this is a great disadvantage to them, as they often marry as soon as they are out of their apprenticeship.
6. Apprentices having their clothes and other necessaries provided for them by their masters and mistresses, are very unfit when married to lay out money economically for the provision of themselves and families. Is this not a reason why so many young married apprentices, &c. have sought assistance from the parish officer?

The expediency of uniting Unions for the erection of a lunatic asylum.

The intention of the magistrates to erect a pauper lunatic asylum, under the provisions of the 9th Geo. 4, c. 40, attracted much attention in this county. It was proposed to purchase the barrack at Exeter; and the estimated expense was 15,000*l.*

To this proposal great opposition was offered; petitions were presented from a number of the parishes, praying the magistrates not to carry their intention into execution. On this subject I have conferred with all the boards of guardians, established in the district assigned to my charge, and with numbers of rate-payers individually, the generality of whom admit the necessity of such an establishment; and I have found the objections to arise from the consideration, that in raising the money for building and fitting up, and for the annual expense, and also for the appointment of officers and their salaries, the rate-payers themselves would have no voice, but be subject entirely to the discretion of the county magistrates. They also considered, that the expense contemplated was much greater than the necessities of the county required; and that, as all other classes of poor were placed under the control of the Commissioners, there was an incongruity in reserving to the magistrates the exclusive control over that class of paupers. I took the liberty of suggesting to several of the magistrates, and also to the boards of guardians, that possibly the objections would be removed in the minds of the rate-payers, if some mode could be adopted for building such a house, on the same principles as laid down for building workhouses, whereby the rate-payers could tax themselves, and retain under their own superintendance that class as well as the other classes of paupers. I suggested to them whether they would approve of having the several Unions to be formed in the county united, for the purpose of building a lunatic asylum, the inmates to be maintained by their respective parishes, and the cost of the building, annual salaries and other establishment charges, paid by the Unions, in the proportions their respective averages bore to one another; the governing body of the asylum, instead of being the magistrates, to be a joint committee, formed of members to be elected by each board of guardians. I did not find any person disapproving of the suggestion to have an asylum built, and conducted upon this principle.

It appears to me that an amendment in the Act, authorizing the uniting Unions, for the purpose of building or purchasing and maintaining lunatic asylums, or other class-houses, would be of great practical utility in this county. That a lunatic asylum is wanted, and that all parties would readily concur in building one, I entertain no doubt. Great difficulty is felt by parishes in disposing of their lunatics. The expense of maintenance in the different lunatic asylums, is very great, and presses so hard upon some parishes, that they are induced to risk the penalty of disobedience to the law rather than bear it. Many instances of

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of this presented themselves to my notice. Various lunatics and idiots were in the different parishes, some lodging with paupers, and some kept in the parish workhouse. Some of these were miserable objects.

At Tiverton I found a female lunatic in the workhouse, who had been there 28 years. She was confined in a small room, having neither furniture, fire-place nor bed; there was not anything in the room but a bundle of straw. She was without a single piece of clothing, perfectly naked, and had been confined in that state, during winter and summer, for the last 28 years. On expostulating with the parties, they said she could not be prevailed upon to wear clothes, and tore them off immediately they attempted to dress her.

On the formation of the Union I had her immediately removed to an asylum, where I learn she is clothed, and in a state of comparative comfort.

At South Molton I found a male lunatic, about 28 years of age, in a state of nudity, in a miserable outhouse. There was no fire-place; the aperture that had been a window was stopped up with straw, keeping the room in total darkness. He was fastened by the leg to the wall by a chain, not a foot in length; he had been eight years in that state. I am led to believe, by information I received, that it was a common practice for the girls, as well as boys, of South Molton, on the Sunday afternoon, to go to the workhouse to indulge the indecent curiosity of seeing this naked maniac. I immediately communicated with the mayor of the town and parish officers, and insisted on his instant removal to an asylum.

Another case I met with was at Northam, near Bideford, where the medical man informed me, from the want of proper heat being conveyed to the room, the nails on the toes and fingers of the lunatic were parting from the flesh.

At Bideford I found two lunatics, a male and female, confined in dens exactly like those used for wild beasts, and equally offensive. These I had immediately released. The female was sent to the asylum, and put under a curative system, and is expected to recover; and the male is now at work in the house, quite sensible of the benefit conferred on him by the change.

I have merely mentioned these as instances; but there are few or no poor-houses in which there are not some objects for whose welfare a lunatic asylum is much wanted.

On the subject of uniting Unions for the building and maintaining pauper lunatic asylums, I have added the following evidence, given to me in answer to the question, "Whether the powers of the 46th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, authorizing the Commissioners to unite Unions for the purpose of appointing paid officers, might with advantage be extended to other purposes, such as the building and maintaining lunatic asylums?"

Evidence of Mr. Buller.

On this subject Mr. *Buller* says: The attention of this county has been repeatedly called to the propriety of erecting a pauper lunatic asylum, which has been strongly advocated, both with a view to economy and on the ground of benevolence to the pauper lunatics, who have a legal claim on their respective parishes for that care and curative treatment which are suited to their unfortunate malady, and which are most likely, under the blessing of Providence, to restore them to their families and their country. The powers of the 46th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act might be most advantageously extended to the building and maintaining luuatic asylums.

It appears to me highly expedient that the system of centralization on which the Unions are formed, and which has been proved to be most conducive both to good management and economy, should be further acted upon, in order to effect this desirable object. It is both natural and proper that an establishment intended for pauper lunatics should be erected by the authority and placed under the control of the Poor Law Commissioners; and this I believe to be the opinion and the wish of the majority of the rate-payers in this county. The asylum should be erected as near Exeter as possible, being the central point, to which patients from all parts of the county could be most easily conveyed; where there is the best medical advice, and where the regular attendance of a visiting committee or of inspectors appointed specifically could be most readily obtained. The Government would, I presume, advance the sum necessary for the erection, in the same manner as loans are now made for building workhouses. Each Union would pay its proportion towards the expense of the building, according to the average of the expenditure for the relief of the poor during the last three years, and when the asylum is finished a sum would be fixed for each patient, covering all expenses of food, clothing, medicine, attendance and repairs, to be paid by the parish to which the lunatic belongs. I sincerely hope that as soon as the whole county is formed into Unions, and the number of lunatics who are fit subjects for an asylum has been correctly ascertained (for the returns at present furnished by the overseers are admitted to be very inaccurate), no time would be lost in applying to Parliament for the necessary powers to authorize the Commissioners to unite Unions for the purpose of building and maintaining lunatic asylums.

At this moment we do not know what to do with a pauper lunatic. We keep a man on purpose to take care of him, because we will not allow him to be chained. I understand there is no room either in the Cornwall or Dorsetshire Asylum; and if he is sent to the asylum at St. Thomas's he will cost 15 *s.* a week for his board, besides other extra expenses. I believe that many lunatic paupers might have been cured if the disorder had been properly treated in an early stage, but the expense of sending them to an asylum, there being no county asylum, is so great, that they have been kept in the workhouses till they become so troublesome, that it is desirable to remove them even at a considerable expense; but in the meantime the disease has become inveterate and recovery is hopeless.

The Rev. Mr. *Karslake*, in his evidence on this subject, states: If the powers of the 46th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, authorizing the Commissioners to unite Unions for the purpose of appointing paid officers, were extended for the building and maintaining lunatic

lunatic asylums, it would, in my opinion, be most beneficial. There are many cases of lunatics within the South Molton Union. The expense of maintaining them in private asylums is immense, whilst proper care of them cannot at present be provided for them in any other way. Nor do such establishments meet every exigence, as the following instance will prove: a youth just out of his apprenticeship was brought before our board as an idiot, and ordered to the workhouse, where he became so violent as to knock down the governor, and require personal restraint; when I interfered as a magistrate, and (on the production of two medical certificates to that effect) directed the overseers to remove him to an asylum. He was, I have been since informed, refused admittance, as subject to fits, and he is consequently at large.

Expediency of transferring the power of signing rates, &c. to the boards of guardians.

As the same time that it would be desirable to add this branch of management to the business of the boards of guardians, I conceive it would be also advantageous if other powers, at present exercised by magistrates, could be transferred to the boards, such as signing the rates, attaching wages, &c.

The parishes at present incur great expense in transacting this species of business before the magistrates, which could be better performed by the boards, who would be more accurately informed of the circumstances and occurrences of the parishes than a bench of magistrates possibly can be.

Evidence

To my question of "Whether, under the present constitution of your board, you consider that the power of signing rates, consenting to apprenticeships, and other acts relating to the relief of the poor at present imposed on magistrates, might with advantage be deputed to your board, and whether any convenience or advantage would arise from such duties being imposed upon the boards instead of the magistrates?" I have received the following answers, among others to the same effect.

Mr. *Budd*, of the Barnstaple Union, J. P., states: I am inclined to think the whole of the business alluded to, at present transacted by magistrates, might with advantage be transferred to the boards of guardians, and thereby save much time and misunderstanding, which will most likely be created by communications between the two authorities.

Mr. *Buller* states: The allowance of the poor-rate is merely a ministerial act; and it would probably be more convenient to the parish officers if it could be performed by the boards of guardians which meet once every week, instead of their being required to attend the petty sessions, and frequently to go to two magistrates at their respective houses.

Expediency of a power for dissolving Unions without consent.

Whilst adverting to changes tending to centralize the various executives connected with the poor laws, perhaps I may allude briefly to the 32d section of the Act, which limits the power of the Commissioners in dissolving or adding to Unions.

I myself have not met with many Unions formed under Gilbert's Act, and am therefore unable to speak regarding them from extensive experience; but in this county there is an incorporation of the poor of the city of Exeter, constituted under an Act of Parliament of 9 & 10 Will. 3; of this corporation there are 40 guardians elected for life; the mayor and aldermen of the city are *ex-officio* guardians. Some of these guardians, although from age and infirmity perfectly unable to attend to their duties, fill up the representation of the ward for which they were appointed; and, as regards them, the ward is entirely unrepresented at the board.

The rate-payers of the city are anxious to have the same advantages as the adjoining parishes, who elect their representatives annually, and express themselves thus to me on the subject:

"Sir, Exeter, 22 June 1836.

"We, the undersigned payers to the poor-rate of the city of Exeter, having heard, with much satisfaction, the statement made by you, that the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act may be applied to this city, do most earnestly request that the same may be forthwith put in operation.

"Without entering into a statement of the evils that have arisen from electing the guardians for life, whereby they become in a great measure an irresponsible body, we beg to express our opinion that a remedy for the evils and irregularities complained of in the administration of the funds and the management of the paupers, can be best insured by the guardians being periodically elected.

"We call your attention to one recent fact. Several of the 40 guardians having been elected aldermen, it was the opinion of their own law officer, and also of the Attorney-general, that vacancies were thereby created in the corporation of the poor which should be immediately filled up; they have, however, refused to do so, and the body remains incomplete. Thus the rate-payers must either submit to not being represented, or by a wasteful expenditure of the public money apply for a mandamus in order to obtain their rights.

"This one instance of pertinacity will, we trust, alone be sufficient to claim your attention to our request."

This memorial was presented to me, bearing 867 signatures.

I have thought it my duty to lay before you their opinions and wishes, and to express my opinion that it would be beneficial to remove the power retained by this and similar bodies representing the rate-payers against their wishes.

To vest in a body like this the power of objecting to their own dissolution, or the extent or limits of the Union, appears to me to have sacrificed the wishes and interests of the rate-payers to the wills of the guardians. If the probability was that the required consent would be given in proportion to the evils existing in the body, or the inadequacy to discharge the duties of their office, the evils of the power would be less.

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But the interest in retaining the office is generally in proportion to the abuses that exist; and the greater the abuses, the less the prospect of obtaining the necessary consents. The withholding the consents, instead of being evidence that the dissolution or alteration is unnecessary, is a strong proof of the contrary. The extent of opposition is but too frequently evidence of the extent of abuse.

The elections for the office are here hotly contested, and sums of 200*l.* or 300*l.*, I am informed, are sometimes spent by the candidates.

Resistance to the proceedings of the board of guardians,

Your orders and rules being calculated to lessen the resort to the beer-shop, and curtail the improper exercise of parish influence and parish funds, have here, as elsewhere, excited opposition amongst those parties who benefited by former abuses. The leaders of the opposition are to be found amongst the constant overseers (gentlemen accustomed to accept the office for 5*l.* a year, and quit it with a well-furnished purse); the little shopkeeper, at whose house the poor were paid, and who received the amount for old debts and encouraged new, from which the pauper never got free; the beer-shop keeper, at whose house great part of the relief was expended; and the little farmer or the lime-kiln owner, whose influence at the vestry enabled him to pay one half his labour from the parish funds, under the name of relief in aid of wages, or to speak correctly, relief in aid of vestrymen.

Wherever disturbances have taken place, they have been traced to the instigation of some or one of these parties. In the north of the county, where there were some disturbances, we found that the poor people were acting under the grossest deception.

There was not anything too horrible or absurd to be circulated, and nothing too incredible for their belief. Few really understood the intended proceedings of the guardians, and the opposition was not against the execution of the law, but the falsehoods in circulation. As soon as the intentions of the law were understood, the most riotous submitted and received the alterations gladly. Amongst other ridiculous statements circulated, the peasantry fully believed that all the bread was poisoned, and that the only cause for giving it instead of money was the facility it afforded of destroying the paupers; that all the children beyond three in a family were to be killed; that all young children and women under 18 were to be spared; that if they touched the bread they would instantly drop down dead; and I saw one poor person at North Molton look at a loaf with a strong expression of hunger, and when it was offered to her, put her hands behind her and shrink back in fear lest it should touch her. She acknowledged she had heard of a man who had dropped down dead the moment he touched the bread.

It was also believed that to touch the bread was like "taking bounty," and the guardians would immediately seize them, kill their children, and imprison the parents.

Other stories to excite the small rate-payers were,—that the chairman was to have 1,200*l.* a year, and all the guardians in proportion, and that 20,000*l.* were to be immediately levied on the rate-payers for a workhouse.

Bastardy clauses in the Act.—Effect of the old law and of the new.

Cases are daily recurring to show the salutary nature of the alterations in the law as regards cases of bastardy, and the necessity of the change introduced by the Poor Law Amendment Act. Whilst the unsupported oath of the woman was sufficient to convict a man she could make a market of her power, and every respectable character was at her mercy, and obliged to purchase a continuance of reputation by submitting to her exactions, an instance of which occurred at Barnstaple, where a clergyman, of high character for piety and usefulness, one morning received a visit from a woman, apparently large with child. She opened the conversation by calling attention to her rotund appearance, and told him that unless he made her a handsome allowance she would swear the child to him. His denial of all knowledge of the woman was unavailing. She insisted on the right of the statute, and declared that he must either pay or become the father. Distracted and alarmed for his reputation, he consented to pay the demand, and appointed her to call on his solicitor. In the mean time he apprised him of the coming visit. The solicitor, a shrewd man, at the appointed time secreted two women in a small room divided from the place of interview by a folding-door. The woman arrived, preceded by the projecting evidence of his client's guilt, and commenced the negociation for settlement. The lawyer expressed his doubts of the causes producing the appearances; might it not be dropsy? The female was indignant at the suggestion; did not she (did he presume to think), who was already a mother, not know when she was about to become one again? The lawyer, however, doubted, and before she was aware of the intention, handed her through the folding-door into the presence of the two women. Sitting in silent expectation of the result, his gravity was presently disturbed by reiterated peals of laughter, and the two women rushed in with a large pillow, and the threatening mother in very slender figure. This same pillow had been hawked about at other houses, and with better success.

At Bideford there is also another case, proving that the power of the female was easily abused for the purposes of extortion. Under the new law the trade is destroyed, and the good effects are perceptible in every Union; many who were most opposed to these clauses of the bill, understand them, and seeing their operation, approve of them.

General effect of the new measure in the county of Devon.

As to the general effect and operation of the measure in this county, I beg leave to add the evidence of some gentlemen, whose knowledge of the county and general intelligence entitles their opinions to great respect.

Mr. *Budd*, in his examination, says: It is my firm opinion that the general condition and moral character of the labouring classes will be greatly improved by the alterations, and that the wages will after some time increase, from their showing a better disposition to serve their employers faithfully, and that beer-shops and poaching will decrease in consequence.

The examination of paupers, as conducted by the board of guardians, has detected impo-

sitions

sitions, and on the other hand brought forward cases requiring relief which were neglected by the former executive. Parents having ability to maintain their children, who were before paupers, have been compelled to support them, and children having the ability, have been compelled to maintain their parents.

Opposition was offered to the proceedings of the board of guardians of the Barnstaple Union during the first two months of its operations, but there has been none since. The opposition commenced on the giving relief in bread instead of in money. It was occasioned by false reports circulated by beer-houses, small dealers in bread, small farmers, and I might add, by some who ought to have known better; intended to excite the minds of the poor against the proceedings under the new law, particularly in regard to the relief in bread. By prompt and decisive measures in swearing in special constables, calling out the yeomanry, and proceeding to the punishment of the principal offenders as soon as any outrage was committed, peace and order were soon restored.

I am not sufficiently informed to give you the exact amount of the expenditure of the parishes in this Union, but I believe it to be much reduced since the formation of the Union; and that when the workhouse is established, and the guardians fully understand all the bearings of the new poor law, it will be considerably more so.

The many frauds practised by paupers residing at a great distance from the parishes to which they belong, together with the great expense and inconvenience in communicating with different parishes, has brought me to the conclusion, that the sooner all relief allowed to such paupers is discontinued, the better; and it is my belief that many of these paupers would never be heard of after.

The able-bodied labourers who were accustomed to resort to the parish, now never apply, but trust to their own means, except in extreme cases; and in these the relief is generally by way of loan. This applies also to medical relief, which is much lessened by the establishment of medical clubs.

The Rev. Mr. *Karslake*, in his evidence says; The examination of paupers, as conducted by the board of guardians of South Molton Union, has tended to bring numerous impositions to light, and, on the other hand, some cases of hardship before neglected. Many instances have occurred in which relations have been compelled to maintain paupers. But some most flagrant cases of this description still remain, in which compulsion is difficult, from the distant residence of such relatives, in London, Bristol, &c, There is one commercial traveller from Bristol, who visits his mother, a pauper of North Molton, in a gig.

In cases of bastardy, the board has refused all relief out of the workhouse, and though there were upwards of 100 such cases on the books, only five are in the workhouse, after a trial of two months, and these all cases of second or third children. I have no doubt but that the regulation will produce a great improvement in the morals, though the time does not allow me to speak from experience.

The disturbances in South Molton Union originated on the first distribution of the relief in kind. They were manifested by numerous and exaggerated statements, by threatening letters in various quarters, and in the parish of North Molton by refusal to take the bread, intimidating those who would have accepted it thankfully, and by firing an outhouse of one of the guardians, and other acts of violence. In the parish of North Molton the opposition could be traced as originating with the bakers, and the threatening letters were mostly supposed to come from one single individual. In dealing with this opposition, the board of guardians proceeded to refuse relief, except in the workhouse, to the able-bodied paupers of North Molton, not one of whom came into the house, and by firmness in general, order was quickly restored.

This Union has been established so short a time, and is yet so imperfectly in operation, that it is difficult to speak with certainty as to its effects. Certainly no bad results have taken place, and though, in the first instance, opposed to the measure, I have every reason to expect a considerable improvement from it.

Mr. *Manley, ex officio* guardian of the Tiverton Union, says; The examinations of the paupers, as conducted by the board of guardians, have certainly detected many impositions. In a few instances relief has been withheld, when it appeared the paupers had relatives legally bound to support them, and no appeal has yet been made against such decisions.

The Union has been so recently established, that the effects, as yet, can be scarcely visible on the condition and moral character of the poor. As far as I can judge, it is acting well. In my parish the poor are satisfied, and there is less disposition to apply for relief, it being known that every individual case will be thoroughly sifted.

The general effect of the Poor Law Amendment Act in this county has been to increase the industry and providence of the able-bodied labourer, to control the idle and dissolute, and to afford to the aged and infirm the necessary indulgences of age; to lessen the burthen of the rate-payers, and generally to remove those evils resulting from an undue interference with the market of free labour, so injurious to all classes of the community.

I have, &c.
W. J. Gilbert.

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No. 10.
Report of
Robert Weale, Esq.

— No. 10. —

REPORT on the Counties of *Glouceter, Worcester* and *Somerset*, by *Robert Weale*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.—[With a Supplement.]

Gentlemen, Bristol, 12 July 1836.

In obedience to your request that I should prepare a Report, setting forth my observations as to the general condition of the labouring classes, so far as they are affected by the administration of the poor rates, within the district assigned to me, I beg leave to transmit to the Board the following communication.

I have, &c.
Robert Weale,
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

To the Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

Questions sent to chairmen, &c. of different Unions.

Answers contained in supplement.

I directed my attention principally to the points suggested in your letter, and for the purpose of eliciting evidence from the persons whom I considered to be best qualified to give it, I prepared a series of questions to be forwarded to the chairmen, vice-chairmen and clerks of the boards of guardians within my district. These questions, together with the answers which I have received from the persons to whom they were addressed in those Unions which have been long enough in operation to exhibit the results of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and the measures founded on it, I have subjoined at the end of this Report by way of supplement.

These answers contain facts and opinions which are the more valuable and authentic, as coming from persons who had local opportunities of ascertaining and judging of their correctness, and who, from their situation and duties, could hardly fail to have improved those opportunities.

My own actual experience and direct observations on the subject are necessarily but limited. I was previously unacquainted with the district which has been the scene of my operations, and have been incessantly engaged in making the arrangements for the formation of the different Unions into which it is divided.

No detail of figures introduced.

I have not introduced any details of figures calculated to show the exact amount of the reduction which has taken place in the poor rates in the parishes in the several Unions, as your Board is already in possession of the quarterly returns, which are the best source from which such information can be derived.

Reduction considerable.

The actual reduction however has been considerable, and that in a district which previously was not heavily pauperised. Of this fact the most striking evidence will be the admission of the reverend vice-chairmen of the Unions of Newent and Pershore, to be found in their answers to the 7th question in the Supplement, in which they both speak most correctly of the good management that previously prevailed in their respective parishes.

Relief.
Able-bodied.

On several occasions during my attendance on boards of guardians, applications have been made for relief by able-bodied labourers, on the ground of insufficient wages, and in Unions which possessed sufficient workhouse accommodation I have invariably recommended the guardians to offer the applicants for relief admission into the workhouse.

In this advice, as I trust in every other part of my proceedings, I particularly regarded the welfare of the labourers themselves, being confident that the rate-payers would prefer that their money should assume the shape of wages, and go to remunerate labour, to its being extorted as a contribution, and applied in support of idleness; and that the employers, rather than part with their labourers, would increase their wages to an extent adequate to their proper maintenance, and in this expectation I have not been disappointed; and, as I remember no instance in which the workhouse was accepted, I doubt not that the master and labourer came on these occasions to new and better arrangements.

Discontinuance of out-door relief to the able-bodied.

In the following Unions your orders have been received for discontinuing relief to able-bodied male paupers out of the workhouse, though in some of these Unions those orders have not yet come into operation:

Gloucester,	Clifton,
Wheatenhurst,	Tetbury,
Newent,	Chipping Sodbury,
Tewkesbury,	Dursley,
Westbury,	Stroud,
Cheltenham,	Keynsham,
Bath,	Thornbury.

In nearly all the parishes comprised in these Unions the practice of relieving able-bodied labourers, either by paying rents, providing habitations, or making weekly allowances, prevailed to a greater or less extent. But the principle of not giving any other than in-door relief to that class of pauper applicants had since the Union, but before the issuing of the orders, been fully recognized. Not a single instance has occurred to my knowledge of relief in the workhouse having been accepted by the able-bodied; and I trust that the orders will operate to the complete redemption of that class of labourers from a state of pauperism, and the transition appears to me to have taken place without occasioning the least degree of excitement, much less of suffering.

In other Unions to which, as they did not possess sufficient workhouse accommodation, the

the orders were not issued, the guardians, adopting the principle, have endeavoured to carry it into effect by the following resolution, which was passed unanimously at all the boards in West Somersetshire:

"That those who are able-bodied male paupers shall receive no relief, except in cases of sickness or accident of themselves or their families, but through the operation of a workhouse, and except by way of loan, the repayment of which will be enforced."

Aged and infirm.

I regret to say, that some alarm took place, in many Unions, among the aged and infirm poor persons, who were in the receipt of relief at the time of their formation.

Many of these prejudices, which were implanted by interested persons for their selfish ends, have gradually worn off, since the rule, which has almost universally been adopted for the relief of the aged, viz. to give relief adequately to the merits and necessities of each case, and commonly out of the workhouse, has become more known.

In many of the parishes now comprised in Unions, the former allowances to the legitimate objects of relief were scanty and insufficient; and they have generally been increased by the guardians.

The clerk to the Clutton Union, near Bristol, states the effect of the measure, on these objects, to be "most beneficial. The aged, the impotent and the helpless, have, in many, I should almost say the majority, of the cases which have occurred here, been placed upon a higher scale of allowance than they were by their respective parishes previous to the formation of the Union."

And the vice-chairman to the Newent Union, in the western part of Gloucestershire, states that these classes "were never so well cared for at any time as under the new system, in every respect; and generally, I think, they begin to express their sense of the comforts, &c., that they now enjoy above those to which they had been accustomed; and further, they begin to think that the new system, after all, has exceeded their expectations in every way, and that they, at least, have every reason to be grateful and satisfied."

Bastardy.

In the districts which I have already formed into Unions, very few applications have, since the formation of those Unions, been made to the quarter sessions for affiliating bastard children upon the putative fathers. I have strongly recommended that no application should, in any case, be made to the sessions by the overseers, without the sanction of the guardians.

From all the information which I have been able to obtain, I collect that bastardy has decreased; and I am not aware that any increase has taken place in the number of cases of infanticide; indeed, I have not heard of six such cases during the whole 12 months I have spent in the district.

Parochial apprenticeship.

As a means of providing for the youthful paupers, the system of parochial apprenticeship, at one time, prevailed extensively in West Somersetshire. The scale was applied to this as well as to other parochial matters; and the relation of master and apprentice was entered into, not from any demand by the master for the services of the apprentice, nor from any fitness in the child, in point of health, strength or age, to the situation to which he was bound, nor from any qualification on the part of the master, in point of business, family or character, fitting him to receive apprentices, but from the circumstance that the estate which he held or occupied was of a certain annual value.

This system, from the experience of its injurious effects, was somewhat declining in reputation at the time I first visited the county; and I very easily induced the guardians and overseers to discontinue it entirely.

Medical relief.

The subject of medical relief has excited much discussion in my district, as well as in other parts of the country.

The contracts for medical relief, in most of the Unions under my care, which came into operation during the year 1835, were made upon tenders; but much dissatisfaction having prevailed, both amongst the guardians and the members of the profession, upon this mode of appointment of the medical officers, I have since recommended that the salaries should be fixed after the rate of 3*d.* per head on the gross population in agricultural Unions, according to the census of 1831. In one or two Unions, having a population scattered over an extensive district, in some parts not easy of access, the salaries have been fixed at the rates of 4*d.* and 4½*d.* per head on the population. The service of the medical officer, in those cases of midwifery where medical assistance is required, is remunerated by a payment of 10*s.* per case. The mode of remuneration, calculated on the population, has proved satisfactory to all parties, and has not caused an increase of expenditure. In town populations the boards of guardians have fixed salaries for the medical officers, in proportion to the duties which they expected to be performed.

The Stroud Union, on the suggestion of a very intelligent committee, appointed to consider and report on the best mode of affording medical relief, have contracted with their medical officers to attend paupers falling sick in the Union, after the rate per annum specified in the following scale:

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Every adult	–	3	–
Man and wife	–	4	–
Each member of a family, above 16	–	2	–
Under 16	–	–	6
Midwifery cases, each	–	10	–

In that Union the medical officers also formed, under the auspices of the guardians, a medical club, of which all persons of the labouring class, whether belonging to a parish in that district or not, who should, on or before a certain day, tender themselves to be subscribers,

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scribers, have, under the contracts of the officers with the Union, the right of becoming members, at the same scale as above mentioned.

In other parts of my district medical clubs are in the course of being established; and their advantages seem to be more generally, but still far from adequately, appreciated by the classes whose condition they were intended to improve.

Beer-shops.

One of the points to which you have called my attention is the effect of the Poor Law Amendment Act on beer-shops.

From the answers I have received, as well from my own observation, I am led to believe that no sensible diminution has taken place in their number; but it seems to be generally considered that they have decreased in prosperity.

The opinions in the supplement uniformly attribute the worst effects to the beer-shops on the morals of the labouring classes; and in the Unions of Wheatenhurst and Axbridge, it appears that the gentry have effected the reduction of these most mischievous houses, by their influence in preventing the signatures of the requisite certificates by the rate-payers.

Appointment of the same auditor for different Unions.

In order to secure the uniformity in the accounts which it is desirable to maintain, I followed the plan which had been introduced by Mr. Gilbert in Devonshire, of recommending the appointment of one and the same auditor by several Unions. The boards of guardians of the eight Unions in West Somersetshire, at my request, named committees to meet together to consider of the propriety of appointing one or more auditor or auditors for the whole district. The committees met, and, after considerable discussion, unanimously agreed that it would be advisable to appoint one auditor. They examined the testimonials of the several candidates for the office; and having selected the individual whom they considered to be best qualified, unanimously recommended the several boards of guardians to confer the appointment of auditor upon the gentleman whom they had so selected; he has accordingly since been elected auditor to each of the eight Unions.

Lunatics.

Considering the object of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and knowing the wishes of the Commissioners to be as much to protect the persons legitimately entitled to relief from oppression, as to elevate the labouring classes from the state of degradation and pauperism into which they have sunk, I have urged on the guardians of the several Unions in my district to take every opportunity of ameliorating the condition of the poor persons who are suffering distress and hardship under the parochial authorities.

Perhaps no class of persons suffered so much under the imperfect accommodation and relief which single parishes were able to afford as pauper lunatics, whom they consider, or affect to consider, and treat as not dangerous.

Norton case.

In the parish of Norton, in the Gloucester Union, the medical officer discovered a poor woman in this melancholy condition, who had been placed by the parish officers under the care of her mother, an aged woman of 70, at an allowance of 5*s.* per week for the support of herself and her daughter. For greater security, the parish officers had provided a wooden cage or case, in which, during and for weeks after her paroxysms of frenzy, they had been accustomed to confine the poor lunatic, although the size of the case was so small as not to allow her to sit or lie down in it; and this scandalous treatment had been exercised for five or six years. The medical officer, of course, reported the case to the board, who promptly ordered the lunatic to be taken to the asylum.

Insanity in workhouses.

The appearance of many of the inmates of the old workhouses indicated insanity; but I have not usually been able to devote sufficient time to watch their demeanour, and ascertain their real state. The governors of the workhouses uniformly told me that the lunatics under their care were not dangerous; but during my visit to Yeovil workhouse, at

Yeovil case.

which the usual answer had been given, a female lunatic, quite at large, evinced a degree of violence and fury that I have scarcely seen exceeded in a lunatic asylum, and it was not without some difficulty that she was secured. On remonstrating with the governor for permitting so dangerous a lunatic to continue an inmate of the house, he admitted that she was subject to these attacks when excited by the appearance of strangers, and attributed the neglect to the parish, to the vestry of which he had frequently represented that the woman should be sent to the asylum, but to that proposal they had always objected on the score of expense. This complaint of the expense of lunatic asylums is universal, and the consequence is, that many lunatics are found in workhouses or in cottages in the country, whose state, if not strictly dangerous, renders them unfit to associate with the other inmates of workhouses, or to continue at large; and I should earnestly recommend either that there should be a house or ward common to several Unions, for the reception of such paupers, as well as those at present in lunatic asylums, whose cases are quite hopeless; or that separate wards should be provided for them in each workhouse. Several boards of guardians have expressed a desire that such facilities should be afforded them; and I have, since writing the foregoing remarks, received the following resolution from the Gloucester Union, which was passed at their last weekly meeting, on the 5th instant.

Complaint of expense in lunatic asylums, and recommendation that wards for such cases should be provided in workhouses.

Resolution of the board of guardians of the Gloucester Union on this subject.

"Moved by Mr. Carter, and seconded by Mr. Castree, that the rate of charge for the cure and maintenance of paupers at lunatic asylums being very high, (from 10*s.* to 12*s.* per week), and many of them being quite harmless, the Gloucester board of guardians do strongly recommend that, in the contemplated new workhouse, a ward, and the requisite accommodations, be assigned and provided for lunatics. And that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Weale, the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner. Carried unanimously."

Workhouses.

As most of the Unions formed through my agency were either without parochial workhouses, or possessed only such as are destitute of adequate accommodation for carrying into effect the classification and discipline enjoined by you, I am not able to report on the extent or success of the operation of your regulations for the internal management of workhouses.

The guardians of all these Unions have, however, with the utmost promptitude taken the necessary measures to build new workhouses, or to adapt the existing ones which were deemed susceptible of the requisite alteration; and most of the Unions will by the ensuing winter be fully prepared to carry these regulations into effect.

Some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the services of efficient governors and matrons of workhouses, but much more in procuring schoolmasters, although in one or two cases the salaries offered have been considerable. I regret to say that in nearly all the Unions of my district, the business of educating the pauper children has not met with the attention due to its importance. This is not owing to any neglect on the part of the guardians, who are all anxious that a system should be adopted combining religious and moral instruction with training in habits of labour and industry, and which they are with considerable interest looking to you to propound.

Charitable funds.

In many parishes I have found existing funds collateral in their sources to the poor-rate, and frequently applied to similar objects. These funds arise from the rent of lands, or tenements, or monies, which are, or are supposed to be, vested in the minister and churchwardens or in trustees for the benefit of poor parishioners, who are in many cases termed the second poor. Under this denomination are commonly intended poor persons not being paupers, but the exclusion of paupers is by no means strict or uniform. The money is doled out in small pittances, and it can hardly be doubted that, in the present administration of these funds, their effects are injurious. Whether it will be possible to find persons who will undertake the numerous and perplexing inquiries into individual character, which are necessary to qualify them for the office of distributors, I am at present unable to determine. The Michaelmas audit, when the terriers of parish property are to be presented, will be the proper time to make further inquiries into these funds and their application.

Many of these tenements are the subjects of the Parish Property Act, and your consent has been obtained for the disposal of several of them, and in some parishes the overseers have, under the directions of the board of guardians, taken the proper steps to remove the able-bodied paupers who at present occupy them.

Conversion of those originally opposed to the system.

So satisfactorily have the Unions operated, that many influential persons who had originally objected to their parishes being included or continuing within them, have, after some experience of the effects, confessed that their alarms and fears were groundless, and have become as favourable to the system as before they were opposed.

Gloucester Union.

At and for some time after the formation of the Gloucester Union, much dissatistion prevailed, particularly on the subject of uniting the country parishes with those of the city; and it will be in your recollection that the parish of Upton St. Leonard refused to pay their contributions to the Union fund, or in any way to recognise the authority of the board of guardians, and that several memorials were presented to you, praying you to dissolve the Union; and that your refusal to accede to the wishes of the applicants was followed by a petition to the House of Commons, praying that parishes should not be united without consent, and deprecating the junction of town and country parishes.

Convinced that these impressions were the results of erroneous and partial views, I was at some pains to explain the new system to the guardians, and especially to those of Upton St. Leonard's; and I succeeded in removing most of their objections, and producing the altered state of feeling which the following memorandum, taken from their minute book, will best express:

"Sept. 15, 1836.—At the conclusion of the day's business, the chairman addressed the guardians to the following effect:

"I request the opinion of the guardians, and I address myself more particularly to the country guardians, because some of them expressed in the outset strong prejudices against and disapprobation of the new system. Having now seen something of the working of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and having carried into effect, so far as we can, the rules and orders of the Poor Law Commissioners, I wish to hear from the guardians generally, and more particularly from the guardians of the country parishes, their opinion whether they hold the sentiments they did at the commencement of the Union, or believe the measures will place the poor in that situation in which the poor laws originally intended they should be placed, and will ultimately effect a saving in the poor-rates. I ask this because it must at all times be satisfactory to the Poor Law Commissioners to know the opinion of those who form the boards of guardians.

"The guardians generally, and especially those of Upton St. Leonard's, expressed their entire approbation of the Union, and a favourable opinion was then generally expressed. No expression of dissent was uttered.

"The chairman then asked, Are there any persons now desirous of dissolving the Union, or withdrawing from it? No such wish was expressed by any one of the guardians present."

I was present at the time these questions were put by the chairman, and the guardians of the country parishes expressed themselves not only as being highly satisfied, but that, had they it in their power to remove themselves from the Union, they would not do it; and since which period I have been applied to by several other parishes at a greater distance from Gloucester to add them to that Union, and to which I was enabled, in the instances of Brockworth and Ashleworth, to comply. I am happy to say this unanimity of feeling still exists.

Recent formation of Unions under my charge.

It must be borne in mind that, with the exception of the Gloucester Union, which was formed through the agency of Mr. Mott in 1835, none of the other Unions under my charge came into operation till September last, and most of them at a much later period, consequently a sufficient space of time has not elapsed to show very distinctly the working of the system.

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system. I, however, continue to receive from every board of guardians the strongest assurance of their conviction that it inevitably must be beneficial alike to the rate-payer and the poor themselves; and at the end of another year I have do doubt the district under my charge will present a rich harvest of the beneficial effects produced by its operation. The seed is sown, it is now budding, and it only requires to be properly nurtured to bring forth its fruits.

Punctual attendance of guardians.

The attendance of the members of the different boards, particularly the representative guardians, has been most constant and exemplary; and not a single instance has occurred within my knowledge of the adjournment of a board of guardians for want of a quorum of members.

The guardians, though drawn from different classes in life, act harmoniously together, and much advantage evidently arises from the great diversity of rank amongst them.

Assistance from the magistrates.

In conclusion, I cannot but attribute much of the success which has attended my endeavours to the zealous co-operation which I have uniformly met with from the magistrates, who feel deeply interested in a measure which they believe will effect an improvement in the moral and social condition of the poor: and it is but an act of justice on my part to admit that many of their body, who have been individually opposed to the principle of the new measure, have nevertheless, in their magisterial capacity, lent their assistance to carry its provisions into effect.

Robert Weale,
Assistant Commissioner of Poor Laws.

SUPPLEMENT to Mr. Weale's Report.

Questions proposed by Mr. *Weale* to the Chairmen, Vice-chairmen, Clerks and Auditors of the several Unions under his charge.

Questions proposed.

1. Had you observed the state of the labouring population in your Union previous to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act?
2. Speaking with reference to the time that has elapsed since that measure, and to your experience in your own Union; have the labourers appeared to exert more, or less skill and industry?
3. Have they evinced a greater, or less desire to obtain and keep independent employment?
4. Have contracts and engagements between masters and labourers been more, or less permanent?
5. Has the amount of employment increased, or diminished?
6. Has task-work been more generally afforded to the labourers?
7. Has there been any saving on the poor-rates, or the contrary?
8. Has the increased outlay of capital in labour kept pace with the saving on poor-rates, if any?
9. Is there any increase or decrease in the number or prosperity of beer-shops?
10. If there be any decrease, to what do you attribute it?
11. Do the labourers appear more, or less provident and economical?
12. Have improvident marriages been more, or less frequent?
13. Have the practices of poaching and committing similar depredations, increased or diminished?
14. Have you observed any, and what change in the morals and general habits of the labourers?
15. What effect has the change of system produced on the legitimate objects of relief, namely, the aged, the impotent and the helpless?

Answers.

Answers received to the above Questions.

Gloucester Union; declared Apr. 1835; R. H. Carter, Esq., Chairman.

1. Yes.
2 & 3. I have not observed any alteration; I think the time has been scarcely sufficient to sanction any opinion respecting it.
5. The employment has increased.
6. Much the same.
7. There has been a considerable saving; the particulars have been already forwarded.
8. The rate of wages has increased.
9. Increase.
13. They appear to have increased since the passing of the Act for legalizing the sale of game.
14. The improvement is very slight, if any.
15. They are relieved much the same as formerly, and appear satisfied.

R. H. Carter, Chairman, Gloucester Union.

Clerk to Gloucester Union.

2. I am unprepared to speak positively as to this question; but I must beg to express my firm conviction, that the present measure has stimulated the industry of the labourers, particularly in the country. The rules of workhouses, as now established, are widely different to the former tame and lenient regulations of their government. The restriction on their inmates, especially the able-bodied, are too conspicuous and severe to ensure their preference

preference for, and patronage of, a workhouse; they consequently feel the due importance of their exertions for support, and the workhouse is now claimed only as an asylum in cases of abject want and destitution; and I feel it here particularly gratifying to observe, that this statement is verified by the fact of no able-bodied pauper having, since the formation of the Union, claimed that asylum.

3. The means of attaining, and the inducement to secure independent employment, are obvious to every considerate mind. The parish officers were, under the old system, naturally anxious to afford employment to the married man, without regard to his usefulness or idleness, in order that he, with his wife and family, might not become chargeable to the parish, which deprived the single labourer of employment, however his skill, industry or prudence may have merited encouragement. But that labourer has now cause of congratulation in the change; he finds that his indolent neighbour cannot now demand the pay of the parish, but must satisfy a board of guardians that his application is justly founded, and that misfortune, or some untoward circumstance, has reduced him to become an object of parochial charity.

4. I believe that the system is calculated to effect this. An instance pertaining to this question occurred at this board on the 19th April last, from the parish of Churchdown; on inquiry with the guardian of that parish, it was found that the applicants were only receiving wages of 6*s.* per week, and that not in a permanent employment. The insufficiency and uncertainty of earnings were deemed just grounds for application for relief. The applicants were ordered into the house, which course would have deprived their master (who, I presume, is one of the largest rate-payers in that parish) of the benefit of their labour, and obliged him largely to contribute to the maintenance of them and their families in comparative indolence, and at a loss more than equivalent to that increase of wages which may be considered as an able-bodied man's due hire. This leads me to infer that masters will find it advantageous and essential to their own interests to make permanent engagements, and to secure to the parish, by a just remuneration, a class of industrious and independent labourers.

5. The amount of employment must have increased, or you would have heard more complaints, and received more applications from able-bodied men.

7. There has been a saving of 1,744 *l.* on an average of expenditure of 7,311 *l.*

8. This being the first year of the experiment of the new system, it is probable that the agriculturist has not yet calculated how far that reduction in the poor-rates has authorized him to increase his outlay of capital in labour. That he would have been so justified is self evident. I believe no man will attempt to deny that the more a farmer in prudence expends on the cultivation of his soil, the more it is likely to produce. Now in the parish of Churchdown, there appears a saving of 148 *l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* in the poor-rates during the last year, which, had the paymasters calculated on, and been inclined to expend that surplus (which it may be termed), would have enabled the parish to have employed six more labourers at weekly wages of 9*s.* 6*d.* each throughout the whole year. Thus, then, is the system calculated to reward the industry of the labourer, as well as confer important advantages on the employer.

14. With regard to the country labourers, I am sure the guardians will accord with me, that it has produced a general change in the civility, regularity, attention to work, which the old law was never calculated to effect.

16 June 1836. *J. Forrest Lesingham*, Clerk, Gloucester Union.

Wheatenhurst Union; formed September 1835; H. C. Clifford, Esq., Vice-Chairman.

1. We have.

2. The labourers are fully employed, and earn rather higher wages than they did during the year previous to the formation of the Union; but as the demand for labour is greater, owing largely to the present state of trade, it is difficult to ascertain to what extent the improvement can be attributed to the change in the poor law.

3. The applications for relief have not been so numerous as formerly. The same observation as to the greater demand for labour must apply here also.

5. The amount of employment has been increased.

6. It has been usual to let work by the great (when possible), to enable labourers to earn better wages than they receive for day-work.

7. There has been a saving on the poor-rates, if the charge for altering the workhouse be not included.

8. There does not appear to be any increased outlay of capital by the farmers.

9. The number of beer-shops has decreased.

10. The decrease is owing to the exertions made to prevent the signing of certificates for persons desirous of keeping beer-shops.

11. They are rather more provident.

12. If there be any change, they are less frequent.

13. Poaching has increased, probably owing to the alteration of the game laws.

14. There is no perceptible change; but the Union has been so lately formed, that much cannot be expected.

15. The relief to aged paupers is more equally distributed than formerly.

H. C. Clifford, Vice-Chairman, Wheatenhurst Union.

Newent Union; formed Sept. 1835; Rev. J. Simons, Vice-Chairman.

1. Yes; and I would here observe, that the labourers in this part of the country, generally speaking, are better off than in many other districts; and a strong proof of this may be deduced from the fact, that at the time when disturbances were so very prevalent among the

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the labouring classes in many counties of England, in this district we had hardly a single act of insubordination, and little or no complaint.

2. Those who were always idle and indifferent characters, and were constantly applying for relief to the overseers, and at parish meetings, have entirely refrained from applying to the board of guardians; and therefore it is evident that they must rely more upon their own resources for the supply of their wants: in other respects I have not as yet been able to perceive any great alteration. Labourers with us have generally been industrious and competent to their work.

3. No perceptible change.

4. Neither in this respect is there any alteration at present.

5. No greater increase of employment has taken place than what may naturally be expected from the season of the year, and also from the very great demand for workmen at the iron-works.

6. No alteration as yet.

7. A very large saving on the average of the three years ending March 1835. Some persons however contend, that the case is not so on the average of the last two years ending March 1835. I think, however, that they are much mistaken. The answers of our clerk and auditor to this question I entirely concur in. To speak of my own parish, Dymock, always allowed to be one of the best managed under the old system, a saving of 200*l.* a year will be effected, more than two-fifths.

8. Time is wanting to ascertain this point.

9. In some parishes an increase; in others a decrease.

10. The decrease I attribute not certainly to the working of the new law, (though eventually we may have that result), for it took place before the Union; but when the Beer Bill first passed, many pennyless and disreputable persons opened beer-shops on a speculation; but at the end of twelve months, finding their losses greater than their gains, and that they had not capital to carry on their business with effect, they were compelled to give up the undertaking, and with great loss. Hence a large decrease of beer-shops has taken place in the populous parish of Dymock; but persons possessed of any property are still enabled to carry on the demoralizing trade, to the ruin and disgrace of many a family, which, but for these causes, would have maintained themselves in happiness and comfort.

12. No change as yet: at Michaelmas we may form a better opinion, as that is about the period of the year when the labouring classes most frequently are married.

13. No difference: indeed I have reason to think that poaching was not carried on in this neighbourhood to any alarming extent at any time.

14. Time must show.

15. They never were so well cared for at any time as under the new system in every respect; and, generally, I think they begin to express their sense of the comforts, &c. that they now enjoy, above those to which they had been accustomed. And further, they begin to think that the new system, after all, has exceeded their expectations in every way, and that they, at least, have every reason to be grateful and satisfied.

Jno. Simons, Vice-Chairman, Newent Union.

Clerk to Newent Union.

7. Some of the parishes in the Union have saved more than half, the parishes of Rudford, Kempley and Preston had balances in the hands of the treasurer at the end of the second quarter, 25th March 1836, although only one quarter's contribution on the averages had been paid or levied in these parishes. In Newent and some other parishes, where the poor-rates had been judiciously expended previous to the formation of the Union, the saving does not appear so great.

9. I understand there is even an increase in the number of these nuisances within the last six months; but the evil will, I am persuaded, correct itself, for there seems to be little custom for any of them; in fact, they are never frequented by any but the worthless and depraved.

11. The labourers, generally speaking, are in this part industrious characters, consequently much change has not been observed.

12. Much the same. The respectable curate of Newent tells me that there are as many improvident matches as ever.

13. No perceptible difference.

15. I consider this to be a most important part of the system. With us there seems to be an aversion on the part of many of the aged to go into the workhouse. There is, however, little doubt that the aged and young also will become reconciled after the alterations have been fully completed in the house, and the machinery of the system once properly set to work. I have within these few days conversed with an aged inmate of the workhouse, who expressed himself grateful that there existed such an asylum for his age and infirmities.

Abraham Lauder, Clerk, Newent Union.

Auditor of Newent Union.

1. I have for more than 17 years been actively engaged as guardian for the parish of Newent (under the 22d Geo. 3,), and have had daily opportunities of observing the condition and employment of the labouring classes. During that period many instances occurred of able-bodied men having applied for relief from the poor-rates, and receiving it in cases of urgent necessity or temporary sickness.

2. Since the Poor Law Amendment Act came into operation here, there has been a visible change, as I am not aware that any able-bodied pauper is at present receiving relief of any

any description from the parochial funds, except in cases of severe sickness, or of urgent family calamity; consequently those families who had formerly received relief are now supporting themselves by their own exertions; there appears, in some instances, to be greater exertion on the part of the labourers in maintaining themselves and their families.

3. In this locality industrious labourers always meet with employment.

5. Increased.

6. Much the same.

7. There has been a considerable saving in the poor-rates, particularly to some parishes in the Union, on an average I should say, from 30 to 35 per cent.

9. I apprehend there is no material change going on in this respect.

11. They appear to have much more foresight, and to exert themselves more.

12. I have not perceived any amendment on this point.

13. Much the same.

Jno. Wood, Auditor, Newent Union.

Westbury-upon-Severn Union; formed Sept. 1835; Rev. C. C. Crawley, Chairman.

1. The Westbury Union is so lately formed that I am almost unwilling to give an answer to any of these queries, except to this; and that is, that having for more than 20 years acted as a magistrate of this district, (and the greater part of the time as chairman of the petty sessions at Newnham), the state of the labouring population has been under my particular observation.

2. The labourers have certainly had the sense to see and to anticipate, that neither in reason, nor according to the enactments of the present Poor Law Bill, can they expect to obtain a maintenance for themselves and families, at present or in future, without active exertion.

3. I am informed that they have done so; and in proof thereof I can aver, that since the formation of our Union, no single application has been made to our bench for want of employment.

5. The whole neighbourhood are, at this season, in want of labourers. We have but one able-bodied man in the workhouse, and I have sent him to the bridewell.

6. Very much so.

7. The saving will eventually be very great. Probably, in the year, from the commencement of the formation of our Union, one-third less, and this too without one single act of undue severity or rigour.

8. The farmers tell me that such is the case.

9. The beer and cider-shops are the bane of this country; they have not decreased, and the difficulty of enforcing our rules, with regard to them, can only be known to those who see their incessant mischief. We do now and then get informations, but not one in 50 is substantiated.

11. Our time has really been too short to effect much moral improvement, but it cannot be but that the law will soon show them their own interest, even if common sense should not.

13. I hardly think there has been one conviction under the Game Law Act within the last 12 months.

14. Our time has been too short to hazard an answer.

15. Their wants and comforts are better regarded than ever; their board of guardians is composed of men of the most humane and christian-like feelings, and I humbly trust that, as their chairman, I shall never be backward in forwarding the intentions of such true English spirit.

Charles Crawley, Chairman, Westbury-upon-Severn Union.

Pershore Union; formed Oct. 1835; Rev. F. D. Gilby, Vice-Chairman.

1. I was never able to extend my observation over the whole Union previous to the passing of the "Poor Law Bill," but from what I saw at home, and knew of the parishes just around me, I should say that the state of the labouring population was far from being wholesome; and though, generally speaking, the labourers were pretty well employed, and were, on the whole, respectable in their conduct, yet the pernicious effects of the old system were quickly spreading, and every chance was greedily taken hold of to throw themselves upon the parish, and the vestry meetings, generally speaking, being shamefully neglected by the farmers, there was little or no possibility of checking this unfortunate disposition.

2 & 3. The labourers now, for the first time in their lives, feel themselves thrown upon their own resources, consequently they are becoming more industrious, and much more anxious to remain in their places. I think the present system will make better masters and better servants. I have heard them, the labourers, remark, "Sir, we must look out for ourselves, and provide for a day of sickness and old age, now that there is no parish to look to."

4. The contracts and engagements between masters and labourers must necessarily now become more permanent, as there seems to me to be arising a reciprocal feeling on the part of the servant and the master to please and to be pleased.

5. All hands have been fully employed the whole of the winter; at times it has been impossible to get labourers. The railroads have, as yet, very slightly affected the workpeople in this immediate neighbourhood.

6. Voluntary task-work being satisfactory to both the master and the man, is generally (where practicable) preferred to the working by the day.

7. You may remember my telling you how well and how economically our parish affairs have always been managed, and how small the probability was of effecting any saving, yet to my surprise, and much more to that of the farmers, who were more or less prejudiced,

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there has been at least, if not more, a saving of from 40*l.* to 50*l.* out of 228*l.* When the last year's accounts proved this, some would hardly believe the evidence of their senses.

8. Undoubtedly it has and will continue to do so wherever a farmer has his own interest at heart.

9 & 10. The number of beer-nuisances, so destructive to the welfare of society at large, has certainly not increased, but I think slightly diminished, and I hear great complaints made by the publicans that their trade is most materially injured by the "New Poor Law Bill."

11. The labourers having now but little chance of having every real or imaginary want relieved by the parish, are becoming more provident and economical; the very feeling now daily forced upon them, that they are and ought to be independent men, rather than dependent parish paupers or beggars, must necessarily call for greater and happier exertions on their parts.

12. These, I think, are less frequent, and will necessarily yet further decrease, as so much more exertion is required to maintain a wife and family now, than there used to be under the old system, which encouraged every sort of improvidence.

14. The morals of my own parishioners are, I hope, steadily improving; the horrible encouragement given under the old bastardy law being now done away, this, I think, independently of other better motives, will have a most salutary effect.

15. I think the aged, impotent and the helpless, are now very well reconciled to the new system. I feel convinced that many old people will be supported by their children and friends, rather than be suffered to enter the workhouse when it is finished.

In concluding my remarks, I cannot refrain from adding that the more I see of the working of this new, and in my opinion, most admirable measure, the more I am astonished and pleased. I had imagined that after the novelty had worn away, the farmer guardians would become tired and slack in their attendance; this, however, is far from being the case in our Union, and I am sure they are not a little proud of their responsible office; in many instances I find them invaluable assistants; the deep prejudices entertained on their parts are fast giving way, and former opponents of the measure may now, from conviction, be reckoned amongst its warm supporters. The applications on the part of the poor become fewer and less tiresome each week, now that they find all attempts at deceit fairly met and openly exposed, and I feel convinced that the rate-payers and the rate-receivers will, in the end, be on a better footing, and a more wholesome current of industry and pauper independence will flow through all the different channels of society.

F. Duncan Gilby, Vice-Chairman, Pershore Union.

Upton-upon-Severn Union; formed Nov. 1835; Rev. H. J. Taylor, Vice-Chairman.

7. CERTAINLY there has, a very great one. In the parish of Upton about one-half, that is, a levy of 1*s.* in the pound, which under the old system would have lasted but one quarter, has carried us through half a year, and this notwithstanding all the expenses attendant on the commencement of the undertaking. When we get our new workhouse into active operation, I anticipate the greatest benefits from it in all respects.

H. J. Taylor, Vice-Chairman, Upton-upon-Severn Union.

Tewkesbury Union; formed Nov. 1835; Samuel Ricketts, Clerk.

1. I HAD, but more particularly in the parish of Tewkesbury.
2. I think they have been more industrious.
3. They evidently evince a greater desire to obtain independent employment.
4. If any difference, they are more permanent.
5. Increased.
6. I should think not.
7. A considerable saving.
8. From inquiries I have made in the agricultural parishes, I believe it has.
9. An increase in the number, but a decrease in their prosperity, which I think will continue, and the number decrease also.
10. I have no doubt the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act will cause a decrease.
11. They certainly appear more provident.
12. I am not aware of any difference yet, but I think they will be less frequent.
14. I think their general habits are improved.
15. I do not perceive that it has yet had any effect, but as the relief to other classes decreases, I think the condition of the aged, impotent and helpless will be improved, as they will be more liberally provided for. I also think their numbers will in time be much decreased, if the system is generally adopted of giving relief by way of loan to young persons who may apply for it on account of temporary sickness, as it will induce them to become members of benefit societies, which are now being generally established on sound principles, and which enable a young man, by the payment of a small weekly sum, to insure to himself not only an allowance in sickness, which he can claim as his own property, but a weekly allowance in old age. During the little time this Union has been formed, I have seen several instances of the good effect of the loan system; one in particular, that of a young man who applied for relief in consequence of illness brought on by his own imprudence; the relief was offered him on loan, but he refused it when he found that his wages would be attached to repay it when he recovered and was able to work.

Samuel Ricketts, Clerk, Tewkesbury Union.

Cheltenham Union; formed Nov. 1835; Board of Guardians.

1. We were all more or less acquainted with it.
2. More industry we believe they have exerted, but we cannot speak as to skill
3. Yes; we think the applications for work are more numerous.
4. Nothing observable.
5. They have been fully employed.
6. Yes.
7. Yes, in all parishes in the Union except Charlton and Leckhampton; in the former the difference was only 10*d.*, in the latter it was nearly double, owing to their having several paupers in the workhouse, in which the expenses were considerable for the first quarter.
9. There is an increase in the number, but they are less prosperous.
11. Yes.
12. We think they are less frequent.
13. We think they have increased in some of the country parishes; the idle fellows say they would as soon go to gaol for poaching as to the workhouse. In other parishes there is no difference.
14. We think they are improving.
15. They are taken better care of either in the workhouse or by their friends, and there is no expression of dissatisfaction.

From the Board of Guardians, Cheltenham Union.

Wincanton Union formed Dec. 1835; U. Messiter, Esq., Vice-Chairman.

1. Yes.
2. They have certainly exhibited more industry.
3. A greater desire.
4. We are unable to say; the formation of the Union has been too recent to afford much information on this head; but the new system will inevitably lead to this result.
5. The amount of employment has increased.
6. We think it has.
7. In the towns and larger parishes there has been a considerable saving, but less saving in the smaller parishes.
8. We think an increased outlay has taken place.
9. Rather a decrease, and those remaining are in a complaining state.
10. We attribute the decrease to the relieving the paupers partly in kind, and to the general working of the new system.
11. Improved in both respects.
12. Certainly less frequent.
13. We do not conside that poaching can as yet have been affected either way.
14. This Union commenced its operations so recently as 1st February last; we have not therefore had much time for observing any change, but we think favourably of the measure.
15. They are much better provided for than under the old system.

U. Messiter, Vice-chairman, Wincanton Union.

Clerk to Wincanton Union.

3. From all the information I have been enabled to collect, I am warranted in saying that they have evinced a greater desire. They now find it impossible to fall back on the poor-rate as a matter of course, and are therefore anxious of keeping employment when they obtain it.
4. I think they are becoming more permanent.
5. I cannot find that there is much difference in this respect; but I have no doubt if the labourers continue to exert themselves, that they will find increased employment and better wages.
7. There has certainly under the Union been a very great saving, and according to present appearances at the close of the first year on the 30th January next, we shall have saved full 5,000*l.* on the average, which will be 1,000*l.* more than will be required for building and furnishing the new workhouse.
9. I believe there is a decrease in number and certainly a great decrease in prosperity, for complaints amongst the beer-shop keepers are daily increasing. I wish the Legislature could be prevailed upon to abolish beer-shops altogether, for they are the greatest nuisance in the country; and I here beg leave to take the opportunity of suggesting to the respective boards of guardians throughout the kingdom a simultaneous petition to Parliament on the subject.
10. Without doubt to the substitution of relief in kind, for relief, falsely so called, in money, which in my own opinion is one of the best features of the Poor Law Amendment Act.
11. Dread of the workhouse has evidently made them more provident, and when the workhouse system is complete I do not think we shall have a single able-bodied labourer applying for relief except in severe and long-continued winters, and occasionally during protracted sickness or accident.
12. From the best information I can obtain, I believe less frequent.
14. I think I can perceive the commencement of a great reformation, both in morals and general habits; and I am persuaded that that reformation would go on more rapidly were the labourers but better informed of the nature and intentions of the Poor Law Amendment Act. They have been taught, and most industriously taught, to regard that measure as a starvation law, a law directed against their very existence; and unfortunately they have believed it. I now wish to see them taught to consider that law to be, what it really is, the poor man's friend.

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No. 10.
Report of
Robert Weale, Esq.

15. It has produced them a most comfortable asylum, if from perfect destitution they are compelled to resort to it. It has also been the means of increasing their relief where they can contrive to receive it out of the house; and it is with feelings of pleasure that I hear their daily expressions of gratitude within this Union.

Robert Clarke, Clerk, Wicanton Union.

Axbridge Union; formed Jan. 1836; Rich. Trew, Clerk.

7. THE saving on the poor-rates will in many parishes, on the quarter ending the 24th June, calculating on the probable balance which will be then in hand, be considerable; and that too without the much-desired completion of a workhouse.

13. Though poaching and similar depredations are nearly the same, I will venture to assert that the morals and general habits of the labourers have improved.

15. The real objects of relief alluded to, and who were at the commencement of the present system, fearful that their little comforts would be abridged, seem less suspicious, and will, I have no doubt, when their prejudices are entirely removed, (and which have been deeply planted by hucksters and other interested persons) consider themselves more comfortable than under the old regulations.

Richard Trew, Clerk, Axbridge Union.

Clutton Union; formed Feb. 1836; Captain Scobell, Chairman.

1. I HAVE, from an uninterrupted residence of between 20 and 30 years, and as a magistrate a large part of that period; and I have come very much into close contact with the labourers around me, from having in four different parishes, 120 families for many years as my permanent tenants, occupying from 20 to 50 poles each of good land at the wholesale price, on the field garden system.

2. The operation of the New Poor Law Act before the Clutton Union was established in February last, was not perceivable in the labourers; but causing a better administration, by vestries and magistrates, it materially diminished the poor-rates. This Union has known little of direct pauperism beyond the aged, young and infirm. The scale system has never entered within either of the 29 parishes of which it is constituted. Nine of these 29 parishes have a collier population mixed with an agricultural one; the others are solely agricultural.

3. There has been some increased exertion in the more indolent portion.

4. There is no ascertained difference yet.

5. I think a little increased. At present there is not an able-bodied man within this Union receiving direct relief from the board of guardians. We find instances of able-bodied men occupying parish houses, but measures are in progress to remove them.

6. No difference yet.

7. During 1835 there was a general saving in the poor-rates, assisted by the cheapness of provisions; but though this Union commenced with this seeming utmost practicable minimum of expenditure, and though the guardians have generally since increased the allowances to the old and infirm, there is a further progressive average reduction going on, not easily to be accounted for.

8. There has not been time enough to judge.

9. Very little decrease, if any, on the whole number, but fewer which have a license "to be drunk on the premises."

10. From the change, two years since, in the law. If beer-house keepers were restrained to those alone who brew on the premises, *bonâ fide* on their own account, the worst class of beer-houses would disappear; those which sell on commission for publicans or brewers, and those kept by persons without capital or character.

11. This district has not been comparatively an improvident one. Benefit clubs have long been general. Sick clubs are now in progress of formation, and the germs of greater providence and economy are appearing.

12. Not yet ascertained. The parents of, as well as young single women themselves, are now vigilant and circumspect, and bastardy is less frequent.

13. Crime in this district, I think, has been for some time rather diminishing. Certainly in the 20 parishes forming the division in which I live it has been doing so for the last few years. At the last Somerset quarter-sessions, at which were tried 121 prisoners, and at the last Somerset assizes, at which were tried 95 prisoners, not one was from these 20 parishes, having a population of 19,000.

14. A change for the better. About 18 or 20 of the parishes in this Union have for some years adopted the letting of good and convenient land to able-bodied labourers, the holding being subject to future character, and removal following crime. This has generally improved the labourers and their families in demeanor, in industry and in comfort, and the rents are universally paid. I consider this field-garden system the very best permanent adjunct to the new Poor Law Act. It will cut off the future supply of paupers. I have myself 120 tenants, and I well know the proceedings of as many more, and of these 236 men and four widows, all self-maintaining labourers, neither, during an occupation varying from seven to three years, has been convicted of poaching, crime or any depredation whatever.

15. I know some instances where they have quitted the poorhouse and arranged to reside with their sons and daughters. There is a general alarm and repugnance among them to being hereafter removed to a central workhouse.

George Treweeke Scobell, Chairman, Clutton Union.

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Clerk to Clutton Union.

1. Having been always a resident within this Union, I have of course had very frequent occasions of observing the state of the labouring population in it. Many of the evils of pauperism, as detailed in the Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, have not visited us; but the labourer, whether habitually industrious or not, has accustomed himself too much to look upon the poor-rate as his freehold of inheritance, to which, at every momentary and passing emergency, he had an indisputable right, and upon which, when his labour was done, he should retire as upon his own property. He therefore, at the best, had little of that feeling of independence which would induce him to rely upon his own exertions for anything more than his immediate necessities.

5. I believe that I am correct in saying, that there is not an able-bodied labourer in this Union out of employ.

7. There has already been a considerable diminution in the expenditure out of the poor-rates. The charges in the "calendar," viz. those receiving regular weekly relief, have not much decreased; but a vast saving has been effected under the head, in old parish books, of "Casualty Payments." Many a person who, if he happened to be for a day or two out of work, or was recovering from a drunken fit, would dun and pester the overseer until he had 1*s.* and perhaps two or three, will not go to the relieving officer for a loaf of bread, and stands perfectly in awe of the board of guardians.

9. In the entire Union, which consists of 29 parishes, with a population of 22,000, there have been more than 150 beer-shops. On an average they have decreased about one-fourth.

10. I can hardly attribute this decrease to the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act, as it has not yet been sufficiently long in operation here to produce this effect. The insolvent state of the persons establishing these houses is, I think, the cause of their diminution. They have just credit enough to buy a barrel of beer from the brewer, which they retail upon trust; the customer fails to discharge his reckoning by the time the cask is out, the shopkeeper cannot pay the brewer, and the tap stops as a matter of course.

11. I do not yet observe any alteration in the habits of the labourers, but I think this will be a natural consequence of the present system.

15. Most beneficial; the aged, the impotent and the helpless have in many, I should almost say the majority, of the cases which have occurred here been placed upon a higher scale of allowance than they were by their respective parishes previous to the formation of the Union.

John Rees Mogg, Clerk, Clutton Union.

— No. 11. —

REPORT on the Unions in the County of *Dorset*, by Sir *John James Garbett Walsham*, Bart., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Gentlemen, 21 May 1836.

No. 11.
Report of Sir *J. J. G. Walsham*, Bart.

I HAD the honour to receive a letter from Mr. Chadwick on the 9th instant, conveying to me the request of the Commissioners, that I should submit to them my observations on various matters relative to the administration of poor-rates in the districts assigned to me.

The new arrangements of those districts, which the boards of guardians are now developing under your directions with exemplary zeal and success, can scarce be deemed of sufficient maturity to admit of very marked effects on the general condition of the labouring population being as yet perceptible.

An outline, nevertheless, of great moral and pecuniary improvement has been distinctly traced, and I have not a doubt that, when filled up in its details, it will present to view a most gratifying picture of that habitual industry, good conduct and contentment, which diminishing rates and disappearing pauperism never fail to create among the working classes.

The pernicious results to these classes of the foregone system of parish policy, in respect to the quality of their labour, to their disposition to seek or retain employment, and to their propensity to look to poaching and pillage for supplying the means of drunkenness and debauchery, have attained so painful a notoriety, that the public mind, at length disabused, is no longer unwilling to allow that such a system might have been as subversive of the rate receiver's morality as it was ruinous to the rate-payer's property; and I feel with pleasure, that all absolute necessity has ceased for illustrating the superiority of the present management of relief to the poor, by bringing forward additional evidence to swell the record of its past abuses.

Before I attempt, however, to prove that the introduction of the new law, and its remedial provisions, has been eminently successful in the districts which I have recently superintended, I may as well take this opportunity of premising, that although instances of an ill-directed distribution of parish funds have been of unquestionable occurrence in many parts of Dorsetshire, they were, on the whole, less common there, and less preposterous, than in more pauperized counties, and appear chiefly to have consisted in a general want of well-regulated workhouses, in the consequent payment of rents to a very mischievous extent, and in the custom (which, happily, had of late years been successfully

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combated), of making up wages and allowances by a scale of various modifications. Where ever this scale system had been formerly tolerated, wages were of course low; wherever parishes guaranteed cottage rents (and it was a rule with them to which I found few exceptions) those rents had generally risen 100 per cent. above value; and wherever workhouses did exist, it was rarely denied that their inmates fared better than either the independent labourer or the small rate-payer.

Thus much of the circumstances under which your orders were first promulgated in Dorset; I will now proceed to speak of the consequences of your intervention.

I succeeded Mr. Tufnell in that county as your Assistant Commissioner on the 23d of December; six boards of guardians, those, namely, of the Wimborne, Cranborne, Poole, Shaftesbury, Sturminster and Blandford Unions, had been already constituted, and the four first were in operation; but in the remaining two your rules had not then become peremptory. The four Unions which my predecessor had formed, previously to his departure for Kent, at Cerne, Sherborne, Dorchester and Weymouth, elected their first guardians during the early part of the last quarter; and on the opening of the Purbeck, Wareham, Bridport and Beaminster Unions at the commencement of the present parochial year, I was enabled to report the organization of the county of Dorset completed, 282 parishes, containing above 150,000 inhabitants, having been grouped into 14 Unions, and put in possession of machinery admirably adapted to all purposes of local government.

The proceedings of the four Unions of Purbeck, Wareham, Bridport and Beaminster having been hitherto of a nature purely preparatory, it is hardly necessary to remark, that no facts bearing out a decided opinion could have been deducible from their operations. It does not, however, require the gift of second sight to foreknow that Unions cannot well fail to work prosperously, whose guardians entered on their important duties with a determination of steadily carrying out the principles laid down for their guidance; and in most of whose principal parishes (notwithstanding their average expenditure of poor-rates has exceeded 11*s.* per head on the population) well-paid labour is in considerable demand for manufacturing as well as agricultural employment.

From this anticipation of beneficial results, I will crave permission to turn your attention to the advantages which have practically ensued in the 10 remaining Unions, whose last quarter's accounts have passed their respective auditors; and I undertake to show, by subjoined extracts from other evidence than my own observations, that in the progress already made, those Unions have not disappointed the expectations entertained of their well doing.

1.—Wimborne Union of 10 Parishes, whose Average Annual Expenditure at the Date of Declaration (28 September 1835) amounted to 4,474 *l.*

	£.
One-fourth of the Union averages	1,118
Estimates for the quarter ending 24 June 1836, founded on the expenditure of the preceding	801
Quarterly saving	317

Extract from a Report by Mr. *Rowden*, Clerk of the Union, dated 25 April 1836.

Wimborne Union.

"From my having been clerk to the magistrates for many years past I am enabled to state, that previously to the formation of the Union the number of paupers was much greater than at present.

"The aged and infirm are taken greater care of now than they were formerly; and although at first the operation of the new system was rather stringent in regard to able-bodied labourers with large families as contrasted with their former allowances, still I believe that ultimately it will confer a great benefit on all classes, as well as occasion a considerable reduction in the poor-rates."

Extract from a Letter transmitted by the Rev. *Carr Glyn*, Rector of Whitehampton, near Wimborne, dated May 1836.

"With respect to your first query, viz. the medical club, we have not commenced it yet, owing to having so very lately set on foot a friendly society with endowment for children, and a benefit loan fund.

"On the second query, I should say that the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act is likely in time to lead to most beneficial moral effects. It will doubtless have the result in many instances of checking deceit and falsehood, and will tend more to revive the character of the agricultural labourer than anything that has ever been done, for that character was fast declining through the abuse of the old Act; and there is one advantage which I have already found; viz. the attendance upon the sick is likely to be more effectually done, and immediate advice obtained. I would also mention the increase of deposits in the savings bank at Wimborne, and likewise the general increase of friendly societies, as facts exemplifying the well working of the Poor Law Amendment Act in this county."

2.—CRANBORNE UNION of 19 Parishes, whose Averages at the Date of Declaration (30 September 1835) were 3,497 *l.*

One-fourth of the Union averages - - - - - - - - - £.	879
Estimates for the quarter ending 24 June 1836, founded on the expenditure of the preceding - - - - - - - - - - - -	622
Quarterly saving - - - - £.	257

Extract from a Report by Mr. *Pigley*, Clerk of the Union, dated 12 April 1836.

"The board of guardians request me to state their decided approval of the present system of managing parochial affairs.

"On the late board's taking office many disorderly and undeserving characters presented themselves, desiring relief. Too many of such cases would have been attended to under the old system, but they are now completely done away with, owing wholly to the beneficial operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act. We had but one applicant at our last meeting, to whom the workhouse was offered, and by whom as soon rejected.

"The aged and infirm are taken much greater care of and fare better than they did previous to the formation of the Union, and although (in a few cases only) the present system has been comparatively severe on able-bodied labourers with large families, I feel confident that it will be eventually for the benefit of all, and that a rise in wages will be obtained.

"I have great pleasure in adding, that many of the farmers with whom I have consulted give it as their decided opinion that a great improvement has taken place in the moral character and behaviour of their labourers within the last six months, the men feeling satisfied that a great distinction is made between the deserving and the undeserving."

Poole Union.

3.—POOLE UNION of Eight Parishes, whose Averages at the Date of Declaration (2 October 1835) were 5,332 *l.*

One-fourth of the Union averages - - - - - - - - - £.	1,333
Estimates for the quarter ending 24 June 1836, founded on the expenditure of the preceding - - - - - - - - - - - -	816
Quarterly saving - - - - £.	517

Extract from a Report transmitted by Mr. *Thompson*, of Lytchet, Chairman of the Union, dated 26 April 1836.

"The new poor law is working in this Union with the most decided and best effects; the morality of the poor is rapidly improving in every respect; and the reduction in the rates will be very great—in my parish at least one half. There never was so great an alteration made which conferred so much good with so little wrong.

"In reference to your question respecting savings banks, one was established in Poole in the year 1818. The year ending November 1834 there were 593 depositors, and the year ending November 1835 there were 611 depositors, being an increase of 18. The amount of deposits in the bank, November 1835, was 26,255 *l.* 18 *s.* 2 *d.*

"The last six months, since the formation of the Union, 24 depositors have withdrawn their deposits, and 38 have become depositors, being 14 depositors in favour of the establishment in six months, or nearly double the average increase before the Union was in operation; and the increased amount of deposits in the same period of six months amounted to 700 *l.*; thus, to answer your question short, the increase of depositors in the savings bank since the establishment of the Union is 14; the increased amount of deposits during the same period is 700 *l.*"

Shaftesbury Union.

4.—SHAFTESBURY UNION of 19 Parishes, whose Averages at the Date of Declaration (12 October 1835) were 8,882 *l.*

One-fourth of the Union averages - - - - - - - - - £.	2,220
Estimates for the quarter ending 24 June 1836, founded on the expenditure of the preceding - - - - - - - - - - - -	1,150
Quarterly saving - - - - £.	1,070

Extract from a Report transmitted by the Rev. Mr. *Patteson*, the Chairman of the Union, in behalf of the Guardians, of which Report the greater part is annexed, this District having been considerably pauperised; dated 11 April 1836.

"With respect to the general tenor of our proceedings, our aim has been to act with much liberality and attention to their comforts, in reference to the aged, the infirm and the sick, but to give no encouragement to the able-bodied to throw themselves on the aid of the board by placing them on a level with the independent labourer, or, as was formerly often the case, in a situation actually better than his.

"We have had considerable difficulty in procuring work for able-bodied paupers, which should bring them in enough to procure absolute necessaries by their labour, but should

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not, even with active exertions, give them higher wages than those of the independent labourer. This, however, will probably be obviated against the next winter. We have also been obliged to be cautious in having recourse to the workhouse, from not yet having the advantage of a regular establishment of the kind, and which we have no hesitation in saying would materially improve the results, which are already highly satisfactory.

"From having entered on the new system in the month of November, and from the long continuance of weather unfavourable for agricultural operations early in the spring, our first half year will necessarily be heavier than, under other circumstances, it would probably have been. We have also been generally anxious to commence proceedings with as much lenity as the regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners would allow; and we are happy to state that in our Union none of that violent feeling of opposition on the part of the poor has been displayed which has occurred in some other districts; but, on the contrary, with the exception of a few worthless individuals, who have been accustomed, *ab avis et pro avis*, to regard the parish as their patrimony, the poor are well satisfied, and in some instances have expressed themselves as much preferring the present law to the old.

"The number of able-bodied paupers applying for relief this winter was exceedingly diminished as regards former years. In two of the districts of the Union, where a considerable amount was formerly expended on able-bodied paupers, (the number on the books sometimes exceeding 100,) no expense whatever has been incurred for out-door labour this winter; in the third, the Shaftesbury district, the amount of out-door labour does not exceed, as far as we can ascertain, one-third of the amount expended during a similar period under the old system; and the value of the work done bears a very fair proportion to the expenditure.

"In reference to the Shaftesbury savings bank, the total number of accounts now open is 740, and the total amount of their respective balances 27,960*l*. The annual statement of November 1835, compared with that of 1834, exhibits an increase in the number of depositors (and especially of the smaller depositors) of 98, and of 2,912*l*. in the amount of their deposits; while, during the last five months, and since the establishment of the Union, this number of depositors has been again increased by 25, and the balance due from the bank by 886*l*."

Sturminster Union.

5.—STURMINSTER UNION of 19 Parishes, whose Averages, at the Date of Declaration, (4 December 1834) were 6,656*l*.

	£.
One-fourth of the Union averages - - - - - - - -	1,664
Estimates for the quarter ending 24 June 1836, founded on the expenditure of the preceding - - - - - - - - -	909
Quarterly saving - - - £.	755

Extract from a Report transmitted by Mr. *Thomson Jacob*, the Chairman of the Union, of which Report the greater part is also annexed, this District, like the preceding, having been considerably pauperised; dated 16 May 1836.

"However anxious and determined the guardians were to exert themselves to the utmost to carry the provisions of the new Poor Law Amendment Bill into effect, and to comply with the instructions sent them by the Commissioners, the greatly pauperised nature of the villages composing this Union presented rather more than the usual average of difficulty, and therefore the satisfaction of those who, like myself, have watched its success has proportionably increased.

"Notwithstanding the great number of able-bodied paupers who were found out of employ at the commencement of the Union; (invariably the case at all seasons of the year at Sturminster and Stalbridge, from whence they constantly attended the justice meetings of the division,) notwithstanding the threats of burning and destruction, at first frequent, and in more than one instance carried into effect; notwithstanding that the use of stone quarries has been taken away from us, through which we for some time possessed the means of providing task-work for the unemployed; and notwithstanding the increased price of bread and other provisions, the weekly amount of relief by the officers of the Union has gradually diminished to the extent of one-half of the average relief to the poor under the old system, without any hardship or undue severity to the paupers.

"The number of applicants for work has also declined. Parishes which at first sent weekly to the work-inspector from five to ten unemployed labourers, now rarely send one, and of those, who, by obtaining independent employment, have gradually withdrawn themselves from his weekly return, there is scarcely an instance of one ever having applied to him again. The relieving officers state they no longer meet with the excitement, opposition and dislike, on the part of the paupers of their several districts, which they encountered at first. No application has been made to the magistrates of the division; nor have I, in the inquiries I have made from time to time, found that either actual complaint, or cause for it, exists.

"One workhouse, that at Marnhull, has been closed, and of its original inmates (about 28 in number) only eight required to be received in the two still retained at Stalbridge and Sturminster, the rest having provided themselves, or been provided by their friends or relations, with independent homes. The dietary adopted in these workhouses appears to be perfectly

perfectly sufficient and satisfactory, and the orders for removal to them (classification having been arranged in both, as far as the nature of the buildings would allow,) have been very rare indeed, so much so as to satisfy the board of guardians that the workhouse about to be erected for 150 persons will never be required for 100. To the completion of that building we look forward with the greatest anxiety, as it will afford the means of increasing the comfort of those whose necessities or infirmities require assistance, while, by compelling the labour of the idle and dissolute, it may lead some of them to sober and industrious habits, and will at all events prevent their constant recurrence to that pest of the rural district, the beer-shop, whenever chance or pillage throws a few shillings in their way."

6.—Blandford Union of 33 Parishes, whose Averages at the Date of Declaration (5 December 1835) were 8,316 *l.* Blandford Union.

	£.
One fourth of the Union averages - - - - - - - - - -	2,079
Estimates for the quarter ending 24th June 1836, founded on the expenditure of the preceding - - - - - - - - - - - -	1,316
Quarterly saving - - - £.	763

Extract from a Report by Mr. *Oakley*, Clerk of the Union, dated 9th April 1836.

"The good effects of the Union system here are already most strikingly exemplified, and in the whole of the parishes of the Union a considerable saving will be effected whenever the workhouse is ready for the general reception of paupers.

"The relief given in the parish of Blandford during the past three years to the lazy and profligate, under the pretence of being unemployed, has always been very considerable in the months of January, February and March, but the payment in kind and offer of the house (even in its present state), has very nearly got rid of all those troublesome and expensive applicants; they find employ.

"The same talisman has been tried in every bastardy case, and in Blandford (with one exception) there is not a single person receiving this description of relief, nor has one accepted the offer of the house.

"A considerable saving has also been effected by ordering home non-resident paupers, many of whom had for years received relief, but now live without it, not one having yet come home.

"The balance in the Blandford savings bank, due the 20th November 1835, showed an increase on that year of 3,069 *l.*, of which increase, the depositors whose respective balances did not exceed 20 *l.*, contributed a fair proportion; this balance has been again increased since the formation of the Union by 1,049 *l.*, and the total amount now due is 56,886 *l.*, whilst that of November 1834 was only 52,767 *l.*"

7.—Cerne Union, of 23 Parishes, whose Averages at the Date of Declaration (23 December 1835) were 3,472 *l.* Cerne Union.

	£.
One fourth of the Union averages - - - - - - - - - -	868
Estimates for the quarter ending 24th June 1836, founded on the expenditure of the preceding - - - - - - - - - - - -	485
Quarterly saving - - - £.	383

Extract from a Report transmitted by Mr. *Frampton*, Clerk of the Union, dated May 1836.

"From the manner in which the parochial accounts were kept previous to the formation of the Union, I am not able to state whether any diminution has taken place, in point of the number of paupers.

"However the expenditure (including the establishment charges), has been considerably reduced as contrasted with the average taken for the three years ending 25th March 1835, and will I have no doubt so continue, varying from 35 to 40 per cent. until we have a workhouse, which is in course of building, when a farther diminution will, I am satisfied, take place.

"When it is considered this Union is in an agricultural district not highly pauperised, it must be admitted that the reduction is considerable, and it is pleasing to bear testimony that the same has been effected without abridging the comforts of those whom the Legislature intended should be succoured in the time of need.

"The guardians have abolished the pernicious system of paying the rent of cottages, which has had the effect of reducing the annual value of such property; it must not though be disguised that complaints have been made on this head, but they have been invariably disregarded, the guardians being fully satisfied that the earnings and the allowances made were fully adequate to enable the complainants to pay a fair rent for the cottages or apartments they occupied. The ground of complaint can be truly said to have ceased.

"The guardians have considered bastard children, born and affiliated previous to the passing

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ing of the Poor Law Act, as paupers, and therefore have ordered relief without regard to the maintenance payable by the reputed fathers under their respective orders; this has led to dissatisfaction and remonstrance on the part of the mothers of such children, yet the board has seen no reason in any one instance to depart from the rules they have laid down. Since the formation of the Union there has been only one bastard child born and become chargeable thereto.

"In January last applications were made for relief by able-bodied labourers; the guardians thereon directed the overseers of parishes to employ them in breaking stones, to be paid for by the cubic yard, and not at the rate of wages given to independent labourers. This order, coupled with the principle, of which the guardians have never lost sight, of impressing on the cultivators of the soil as well as the paupers, that "the labourer is worthy of his hire," has had the effect of getting rid altogether of able-bodied paupers, and no one is now nor has since February last been chargeable to the Union.

"At the first coming into operation of the new system there was a considerable degree of prejudice existing against it. I can state without fear of contradiction that agriculturists and people of all classes in this Union agree that the measure has already caused visible improvement in the habits as well as in the appearance of the pauper population. Persons who were foremost in decrying the system are now compelled to admit that it has had an effect contrary to their expectations.

"Those individuals who have been compelled from old age, infirmities and other necessitous circumstances to apply to the board, have made their application in a manner becoming their situations, and on the whole there is every reason to believe the morals of the people are improving, and that labourers and servants now feel it is to their interest to retain their situations and preserve their characters."

Sherborne Union.

8.—SHERBORNE UNION, of 30 Parishes, whose Averages at the Date of Declaration (24 December 1835) were 5,269*l.*

	£.
One fourth of the Union averages - - - - - - - -	1,317
Estimates for the quarter ending 24th June 1836, founded on the expenditure of the preceding - - - - - - - - - - - -	767
Quarterly saving - - - £.	550

Extract from a Report by Messrs. *Melmoth*, Clerks of the Union, dated 21 April 1836.

"At the commencement of relief by the board of guardians there were a few instances of dissatisfaction amongst the poor; they were, however, of a trifling nature, and very soon gave way. At present the relief appears to be well and thankfully received.

"We decidedly incline to favour the opinion, that the new system will prove advantageous in its moral as well as in its economical effects."

Extract from a Letter from the Rev. *John Parsons*, vicar of Sherborne, dated May 1836.

"In regard to the information you want, I can only give you two or three facts; but we have not been in existence long enough to enable me to say whether they are the effect of the Poor Law Amendment Bill, as applied to our neighbourhood or not; let them go, however, *quantum valeant*.

"Thirty-one persons have joined themselves to one of our friendly societies this Whitsuntide, which is a greater number than usual. The first or smallest class of deposits in our savings bank is decidedly on the increase during the last six months; and during the present year hitherto the parish register (which I keep) gives but two illegitimate children baptized, whereas there used to be six or seven in 1834 and 1835."

Dorchester Union.

9.—DORCHESTER UNION of 39 Parishes, whose Averages at the Date of Declaration (2 Jan. 1836) were 7,022*l.*

	£.
One-fourth of the Union averages - - - - - - - - -	1,755
Estimates for the quarter ending 24 June 1836, founded on the expenditure of the preceding - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	990
Quarterly saving - - £.	765

Extract from a Report transmitted by Mr. *Abbott*, Clerk of the Union, dated May 1836.

"At the first weekly meetings of the guardians numerous applications from paupers were brought forward, which of course might have been expected to be made until the various quotas of relief to the different paupers had been duly appointed; these applications weekly decreased, and at present the smallest possible number of cases are presented to the board, and those are chiefly from paupers whose house-rents have been discontinued, which has in many instances occasioned some little augmentation of their weekly allowance.

"The

"The medical department of the Union also proceeds highly satisfactorily. The medical officers appear to have been very diligent and attentive to their duties, and no complaint whatever has been made to the board or elsewhere from either of the seven medical districts into which the Union is divided on the subject of medical relief. It is believed that no distinct medical club has yet been formed in the Union, but that several are in contemplation; two very large general clubs or friendly societies have just been formed in Dorchester and Fordington, the centre and most populous part of the Union. These are well supported, and already consist together of nearly 400 members. They each provide for medical as well as other relief in cases of sickness or infirmity.

"A savings bank has also been many years established in Dorchester, and is much resorted to by provident individuals. I should not omit to state, that a public dispensary is likewise in course of formation in Dorchester, to comprise a circuit of five miles, the benevolent object of which is to afford medicines gratuitously to such poor persons whose limited means will not allow them to provide medical relief in cases of sickness and necessity.

"Although most of the parishes comprised in the Dorchester Union were perhaps in a less pauperized state than in many other parts of the kingdom, and afforded consequently less scope for the beneficial operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act than in many other Unions, still it cannot be denied that the working of the new system has already shown itself to be highly satisfactory in its results, not merely as effecting a reduction of the poor-rates, but more essentially by improving the condition of the able-bodied labourer, by destroying his degrading dependence on the parish, and by obliging him to seek independent labour for his support."

10.—Weymouth Union of 18 Parishes, whose Averages at the Date of Declaration (14 January 1836) were 6,213 *l.* Weymouth Union

	£.
One-fourth of the Union averages	1,553
Estimates for the quarter ending 24 June 1836, founded on the expenditure of the preceding	988
Quarterly saving £.	565

Extract from a Report transmitted by Mr. *Henning*, Clerk of the Union, dated 9 April 1836.

"I have the honour of reporting to you the receipts and expenditure of the Union to Lady-day, and I trust that, considering the difficulties incidental to the commencement of a Union and the inexperience of the guardians and relieving officers, the statement will prove satisfactory to the Poor Law Commissioners and yourself.

"The saving effected on the 25th of March, during the six weeks in which the Union had then been in operation, was accomplished without niggardness on the part of the board of guardians, who have been, on the contrary, liberal in their allowances to the poor, and very few complaints from the latter have been consequently heard of since the new system.

"I feel convinced from the result of the short trial which has been made of this system in the Weymouth Union, that it will work well and be of great advantage to the country, and that when the new workhouse is built, there will not only be an increased saving produced, but more real comfort will be afforded to the old and infirm; orphan and other children will be better treated and brought up than under the old law; and many idle and dissolute able-bodied persons, who have heretofore imposed on and been relieved by our various parishes, will be forced to support themselves and their families by working in or out of the workhouse."

By the foregoing extracts, I bring three facts prominently forward:

1. That the gross average expenditure of the 10 Unions to which these extracts have reference amounted, at the period of their respective declarations, to 59,133 *l.*

2. That the estimates for the quarter ending 24 June 1836, founded on the expenditure of the preceding quarter (always the most expensive), exhibits that annual expenditure in process of reduction to 35,376 *l.*

3. That a yearly saving on the poor-rates will thus be effected in the county of Dorset, without counterbalancing hardship, of more than 40 per cent. or 23,757 *l.*

On this pecuniary statement I am, nevertheless, bound in justice to observe, that whether we attribute it to the late low price of provisions to the spread of sounder views on parochial government, or to the coming shadow of your interposition, it is indisputable that a considerable decrease had almost invariably taken place in the expenditure of 1834-35, as contrasted with that of preceding years; but whether the amount of pauperism was lessening in the same proportion as the money payments is very doubtful.

I may, however, add that scarcely a vestige now remains of those principal evils incidental to the former administration of poor laws in Dorsetshire, to which I have before alluded.

In each Union, classified workhouses are now in process of erection or alteration; the payment of cottage rents by the overseers has been altogether discontinued; and of the old scale system, which taught the poor that their children had a stronger claim for support on the parish than on the parent, the abolition is complete.

Friendly societies, benefit clubs and dispensaries are rapidly becoming general throughout

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the country, and where they were already in existence, a new stimulus appears to have been given to that spirit of right-minded charity, which aims at pointing out to the poor man, "who hath hard means to live," but who can appreciate the value of independence, the road by which, humanly speaking, that independence may be almost invariably obtained.

The associations of Wimborne, Blandford, Sherborne, Wareham, Winfrith, &c. &c. are to my own knowledge progressing most satisfactorily. Mr. Abbott states, that benefit clubs very recently established at Fordington and Dorchester, "consist already of nearly 400 members," in despite of the discouraging circumstance of similar attempts having there previously failed: and I am credibly assured, an assurance which is borne out by some of the extracts I have given, that in other parts of Dorset the same gratifying results are taking place, and that during the last six months an increase in the number of the smaller depositors in the savings banks has been everywhere observable.

With respect to the medical appointments of the Dorset Unions, I only encountered one expression of dissatisfaction on the subject of the salaries attached to them, and that not of serious moment. To the sufficiency of the measures taken by the boards of guardians for providing proper attendance on the poor, I never heard an objection; and whatever may have been the disposition of the medical gentlemen of Dorsetshire towards that part of Union management connected with their profession, (and I am not aware that it was hostile,) they did themselves, at all events, the great credit of abstaining entirely from any the slightest public expression of feeling calculated to thwart your proceedings, or to bring undeserved odium on the endeavour to couple an economical with an effective medical provision for the labouring classes.

I have not at present by me any memoranda which would allow of my speaking with precision to the present cost of medical relief, as compared with that given in Dorsetshire under the old law; but I should say, upon recollection, that it has annually averaged at least 3,700 *l.*; and that the contracts for the present year will not much exceed 2,700 *l.* I consider these contracts, however, as auxiliary to the introduction of a system based on the encouragement of medical clubs; I anticipate that the guardians (bearing of course in mind that medical relief, when really needed, is unobjectionable,) will, nevertheless, so apply themselves during the next 10 months, to investigate all petitions for medical aid which do not come under the head of emergencies, that whilst no poor persons, whether they be or be not actually paupers, shall risk an hour's suffering, if it can be prevented, from want of such aid, they may yet learn by the occasional experience of well-grounded refusals, to comprehend the honest pride derivable from a thorough reliance on their own resources, and may be led, without harshness, to look forward eagerly to the possibility of obtaining that complete emancipation from the thraldom of pauperism, which can be placed within their reach by the combination of medical clubs with the medical arrangements of each Union.

It remains that I now express to your honourable Board my grateful sense of the praiseworthy manner with which all ranks of the county of Dorset, whatever the nature of their previous prepossessions, lent their valuable aid to insure to the Poor Law Amendment Act a fair trial of performing what it promised, and when I call to remembrance that of the Dorset Unions, none had been five months in operation at the close of the past quarter; that none but Cranborne were in a condition to put their cases of pauperism to the test of a perfectly classified workhouse; and that the very favourable results which I hold proved to have been produced, were achieved during the winter months, without having recourse to severity, or giving rise to dissatisfaction, I must take leave, in conclusion, to claim your approbation of the unwearying zeal, tempered with humanity, which has been displayed by the several boards of guardians, in discharge of their most effectual, though somewhat arduous, functions.

I have, &c.

John Walsham,
Assistant Commissioner of Poor Laws.

The Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

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REPORT on *Shropshire*, by *William Day*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

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Gentlemen,

The abstract principles of poor laws have been too fully analysed, and the practice of those that have been hitherto in operation too fully developed, to leave much for further elucidation. The district that has been assigned to my charge presents but little worthy of particular observation, or differing from those parts that have been already assiduously explored. There are prevalent here also, as in other counties, the same credulous security, the same apathy, the same disbelief that the plague amongst them has already begun, and a perhaps more than ordinary political bias, that is slowly but at length effectually yielding to the conviction resulting from experience.

Still the vices of the south may be here severely traced, though in infancy; and if they have not yet sprung unexpectedly into mature vigour, it has been owing rather to the fortune of circumstance than to the providence of superior management.

While the vicinity of extensive iron mines and coal fields, and the increasing demands for manufacturing labour have rapidly absorbed every appearance of a redundancy of population, they have served also to illustrate in the rents and the relief that are unsparingly awarded

awarded to the paupers who avail themselves of these distant resources, how little of the true theory of the poor laws has been really understood.

The results are remarkable, and serve strongly to illustrate the fallacy of that selfish system in the administration of relief which imagines that it can bribe from itself that pressure which the law has imposed upon it, and transfer it in the form of wages to a different and a distant class.

In that part of Shropshire which I have examined, including all that lies connectedly together, there are 243 parishes or townships maintaining their own poor, with a population of 214,298 individuals, and an annual expenditure of 78,816*l.*, exclusive of county rates, and other matters not connected with the relief of the poor. This gives 7*s.* 4*d.* per head upon the population*, or about 27 per cent. less than the average of the kingdom. But though such is the general result, an investigation of the details presents a far less flattering picture. Of these 243 parishes, 84, or above one third, expend 12*s.* 6*d.* per head upon their population, or 25 per cent. more than the average of the kingdom; while the remaining two thirds are of course proportionately reduced, and expend only 6*s.* 3*d.* per head, or exactly one half of their less fortunate neighbour.

With nearly the same system of management through the whole county, it is not at first easy to trace the causes of this great discrepancy; but they evidently at last resolve themselves into those before alluded to; viz. an apprehension in the smaller parishes of anything approaching to a congestion of labour, and a desire to rid themselves of it at all hazards. Hence they annually incur the expenses of an emigration, without participating in the advantages of the permanency of it, and seek to relieve themselves by the bribery of an expensive system of out-relief, rather than by the salutary pressure of a well-regulated internal discipline. The recipients, who profit by the practice, rapidly learn the power which they exercise in the threat to return; and to this system of pauper blackmail must be ascribed the abuses of rents and outpays that here so extensively prevail.

On the other hand, the manufacturing and mining parishes where these labourers are located receive the benefit of their work so long as it is available, without bearing the full proportion of the subsequent charges that attend it; and the burthen of accident, and the certain imbecility of age, are left in a great degree to the support of those parishes who have received no corresponding advantage, but to whom the paupers legally belong.

The truth of this position is strikingly illustrated in the mining districts of the Wellington and Madeley Unions. The four adjoining parishes of Wellington, Madeley, Dawley, and Broseley contain a population of 26,669, with an average expenditure of 6,599*l.*, or under 5*s.* per head. Eight other agricultural parishes in the same Unions, with a population of 3,907, expend on the average 2,874*l.*, or about 14*s.* 4*d.* per head, or 190 per cent. more than the former ones. The fact is, that out of the large population contained in the former parishes, a portion only, parochially speaking, really belongs to them, while the rest are receiving the relief they require, or *say* they require, from their distant settlements. The measure, then, of the pressure of pauperism by comparison with the population here entirely fails, as the amount expended has reference, not to the whole, but only to the settled population; whereas the smaller parishes stand at an apparently high ratio from the fact that having no foreign paupers resident amongst them, they are not only charged with the expenses of the poor of their whole resident population, but also of those who are resident elsewhere†.

In the three largest of the above parishes, viz. Madeley, Dawley and Wellington, the sums advanced by the local officers, in the years of the mediums, to the foreign poor, as they are here called, bore the proportion of 12 ½ per cent. to the relief given to the settled poor. But this was altogether independent of what the former received immediately from the officers of their own parishes, and which cannot be calculated at less than an equal amount. Hence, at the lowest estimation the proportion of the non-settled to the settled poor must be at least as one to four. But this is probably very far below the actual ratio, as it is calculated upon that class only who are in the receipt of relief, and consequently exclusive of the more numerous and valuable class of able labourers.

It is to be observed, that from the nature of the works in the mines settlements are hardly ever

* When the absence of able-bodied pauperism in this county is considered, and it is borne in mind that this ratio of expenditure upon the whole population of the kingdom would give within two millions of the total amount actually expended for all classes in poor-rates, there seems no reason to conclude that the mismanagement here, as far as regards those classes with which alone they are burthened, is not as great, or even greater, than that of the general average. In addition to the amount of expenditure appearing in the poor-books is a heavy tax, though it escapes observation, in the shape of parish apprentices. It is difficult to understand how those who pursue this system can talk with complacency of the malpractices of the south, for under either practice the labourer is equally emancipated from the care of providing for his own offspring, whether it is on the one hand by taxing the general rates of the parish for that purpose, or on the other, by saddling an individual with the burthen of an useless and unprofitable servant.

† The ratio of the expenditure to the population, as a test of the pressure of pauperism, is true absolutely only as applied to the whole kingdom. It is true *then*, because it is evident that the whole kingdom has to maintain the whole pauperism existing in it, and that there are no other parties to contribute to it. In any other case it is true only when the relief given by the district in question to their own poor resident elsewhere is exactly equal in number of paupers and extent of amount, to that administered by other parishes to their poor resident within the limits in question. As a general rule, though by no means an universal one, it is evident the more extensive the district the nearer will be the approach to accuracy.

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ever given, and consequently whole families have continued in these districts from generation to generation, who trace only a derivative settlement to a distant and agricultural parish. Strangers to each other, and differing in their habits, the one party is as averse to return as the other to receive them; and unless the evil becomes very great, the small pecuniary out-relief that is individually given is considered a benefit to both parties.

In a natural state of supply and demand, the wages of labour, observes Adam Smith, vary with the ease or hardship, the cleanliness or dirtiness, and the safety and danger of the employment. The nature of the occupation in these parts is fearfully illustrated by the large proportion of aged women to that of men; and the hazard and fluctuation of the employment will be illustrated by the tables which I shall subsequently submit. The wages, then, that should be given under such circumstances should be so calculated as to compensate the risk, and should enable a man not only to subscribe against the chances of bodily injury, but also to insure something like a competence to his family in the event of premature death.

In the absence of an inducement of this kind few would undergo the slavery of a coal-pit who could obtain nearly equal wages in more secure and more congenial employment. That the additional premium is now paid there can be no doubt; but the question is, whether, by the perverted administration of the poor laws, it is not, to a great degree, paid by a class who is unbenefited by the labour, and to whom therefore the charge properly should not attach: or further, whether it is not twice paid, not only by the class before alluded to, but also by the employer, in the form of sufficient wages.

The amount of the pressure that falls upon the rates from the variable and dangerous nature of the employment will appear from the consideration of the following facts:

In Salop, the three parishes of Wellington, Dawley and Madeley, raise probably seven-tenths of the iron of the whole county, or about seven per cent. of that of the kingdom. The remainder of the Shropshire mining parishes are for the most part too small to require a separate investigation.

According to the last census the population of these parishes was as under:

	Population.	Number of Miners.	Males 20 Years of Age.
Wellington - - - -	9,671	1,011	2,393
Dawley - - - -	6,877	1,379	1,631
Madeley - - - -	5,822	350	1,379
£.	22,370	2,740	5,403

It appears then from this statement, that the actual number of men thus employed in the mines (they are now more) was 11.8 per cent. of the whole population, and 51 per cent. of the males above 20 years of age. We have a right, therefore, to presume, that the quantity of occupation of that description in those parishes was at least equal, if not more than equal, to that of all the other classes together.

The last 20 years have exhibited great fluctuations in the iron trade; and the following table of the rates in those parishes for that period will show how far they have sympathised with these variations. It embraces the extraordinary depression of 1816 and 1817, and the extraordinary energy of 1825 and 1826, and upon the whole presents 10 years of bad and as many of full work.

	YEARS.	Wellington.	Dawley.	Madeley.
		£.	£.	£.
Bad work - -	Lady-day 1816–17 -	9,495	2,185	3,321
	1818 - -	6,109	1,788	3,266
	1819 - -	4,262	1,401	1,632
	1820 - -	3,962	909	1,653
	1821 - -	3,781	901	1,662
Full work - -	1822 - -	3,070	1,207	1,943
	1823 - -	2,552	909	1,325
	1824 - -	2,572	903	1,339
	1825 - -	2,422	895	1,347
	1826 - -	1,988	764	1,356
	1827 - -	2,002	927	1,379
	1828 - -	2,322	924	1,540
	1829 - -	2,221	642	1,716

	YEARS.	Wellington.	Dawley.	Madeley.
		£.	£.	£.
Bad work - -	1830 - -	2,950	972	1,744
	1831 - -	3,431	972	1,755
	1832 - -	3,504	1,305	1,800
	1833 - -	3,772	1,296	2,437
	1834 - -	3,324	1,295	1,726
Full work - -	1835 - -	2,726	1,126	2,702
	1836 - -	2,019	652	1,795
	£.	68,484	21,973	37,438
Or 10 years of bad work - -		44,590	13,024	20,996
— full work - -		23,894	8,949	16,442
Difference - -	£.	20,696	4,075	4,554

Hence it appears that during the years of full work the amount of rates paid by these parishes was 49,285 *l.*; and during a similar period of slack work, was 78,610 *l.*; or that the difference was 29,425 *l.*, or an increase of 59½ per cent. Next to the parishes mentioned above, the following are, or have been, the most important mining ones in this part of the county, and the result of a similar investigation is as under.

	Ten Years of Full Work.	Ten Years of Bad Work.	Increase per Cent.
	£.	£.	£.
Shiffnal - - -	15,021	21,545	43
Broseley - - -	11,007	18,833	71
Lilleshall - - -	8,375	12,629	50
Wombridge - -	5,815	9,687	66
TOTAL - - £.	40,218	62,694	55.8

Independent of the testimony thus afforded by an actual examination of the rates, the following evidence, obtained from far the most important of these parishes, viz., Wellington, throws additional light upon this subject:—

QUESTIONS as to the fluctuation of Labour in the Iron Works, in the Parish of *Wellington*.

1. WHAT is the period of inquiry?—From the 25th March 1816 to the 25th March 1836.
2. What has been the number of works in operation during that period?—Ketley ironworks, New Hadley ditto, Lawley ditto; Old Hadley colliery, Robert Evans & Co's. ditto, lime works.
3. Number of men on the average employed there when in full work?—About 800*, besides a great number of women, girls and boys.
4. Number of years (stating the years) during which the works were in full operation?—From 1821 to 1828, both inclusive, and 1835–1836.
5. Number of years in which, during any part thereof, the works were entirely stopped?—In 1816–17, the Ketley ironworks, which are by far the largest in the parish, were entirely stopped; and none of the other works were carried on with spirit.
6. Number of years in which they were partially stopped, and to what extent, and for how long?—In 1816 and 1817 almost all the colliers were relieved either with work or money, and in the other eight years their earnings were made up.
7. Number of labourers thrown out of employment when the works were entirely stopped?—One hundred and ninety-six were thrown wholly on the parish and employed on the roads, merely to give them some labour; but with scarcely any benefit to the parish, as the whole was paid out of the poor-rates. 133 men got partial work, and the parish was obliged to make up their earnings.
8. What was the number of men thrown out of employment when the works were partially stopped?—Occasionally a few men were employed on the roads, but principally their earnings were made up by the parish according to the number of family, from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per week each.
9. What proportion of these labourers were thrown upon their parishes for their entire maintenance

* From some inquiries I have made since from one of the parties engaged in the investigation, the present number at any rate is considerably more, and I think the Population Returns may be taken as a better average, viz. 1,011, as it most probably proceeded upon an enumeration made at the time.

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maintenance, or for one-half, &c.?—Since the years 1816 and 1817 very few have been entirely thrown out of employment; but such has been the state of the coal-works that men's wages were only 1*s.* 9*d.* a day, and at these wages sometimes they could only have a quarter of a day's work, at other times half a day, and perhaps were obliged to descend the pit early in the morning and wait till their turns came on, which might be one, two or three hours, so that a man with a large family at times only received 5*d.* or 10*d.* for his work in a day.

There is nothing in these answers that I have not in a greater or lesser degree found corroborated in all the other parishes in which I have instituted similar inquiries, and they are borne out as applying to the whole county by the Returns to the House of Commons in 1829, which embrace the two first periods of the above inquiry; viz. the five years of slack work from 1816–17 to 1821, and the eight years of good work to 1829. In Salop the rates in those years, were as follows:

	£.		£.
1816–17 - - -	120,988	1821–22 - - - -	92,907
1817–18 - - -	135,760	1822–23 - - - -	80,089
1818–19 - - -	117,544	1823–24 - - - -	77,569
1819–20 - - -	116,617	1824–25 - - - -	77,611
1820–21 - - -	101,656	1825–26 - - - -	76,826
		1826–27 - - - -	80,754
	£. 592,565	1827–28 - - - -	80,196
		1828–29 - - - -	80,063
			£. 646,015

Or the annual expenditure in the first period was 118,513 *l.*, and in the second 80,772 *l.*, showing an excess in the years of bad work of about 46 per cent. per annum on the whole county. The works here and in Staffordshire are the great outlets for any surplus population in this part of the county, and, consequently, under the present system of poor laws, the rates necessarily sympathise with the fluctuations in the mining trade.

The important question, however, is not so much the amount of increase in these payments as the area or property over which it is distributed. A given amount may hardly be perceptible when raised upon an extended district, which upon a narrow one may become an intolerable burthen.

In the years 1816–17 this local pressure became so great as to cause the formation of a general committee for the employment of the colliers who were destitute of work, and the raising of large subscriptions not only in the county, but even in London. In Madeley parish alone the sums so received in aid of their rates amounted to 1,500 *l.*, and the other parishes of that district obtained equally their similar proportions. A pamphlet was published at that period by a member of the committee, in which the evil as arising in each parish is illustrated in detail. I shall content myself with a single extract:

"Parish of Wrockwardine.

"The mines in this parish occupy a small space of ground; are detached from the rest four or five miles. Three-fourths of the population reside there. They pay one-seventh of the parish rates, though from this small spot all the burthens arise."*

The most material question, however, and the most difficult one, still remains. Admitting the burthen to exist, by whomever borne, the important consideration nevertheless arises, whether it ought to exist at all, or whether the rate of wages is not upon the average sufficient to render this excess of taxation for the most part unnecessary. Whether, in fact, it has not been the maladministration of the poor laws that has been the disturbing cause from which the high wages of the seasons of prosperity have been squandered in dissipation instead of being husbanded against the period of adversity. With a view to this part of the subject, I submitted the following questions for elucidation, and am indebted to the kindness of the principal iron masters in the neighbourhood for the annexed answers. They divide themselves into three branches: 1st, The rate of wages. 2dly, The power of obtaining them; and, 3dly, The accidents that may interfere with them.

* In the parish of Wombridge the rates were 27 *s.* in the pound on the rack rent, and they were obliged to apply to the sessions for a rate in aid.

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS, First Series.	ANSWERS, Second Series.	ANSWERS, Third Series.	ANSWERS, Fourth Series.	ANSWERS, Fifth Series.
Rate of Wages:					
1. What are the classes of labourers, and the proportion of each class, and which, if any, are skilled labourers?	- - Colliers may be said to be divided into two classes, holers and turnsmen, the first bearing a proportion of one to two or three of the latter; the first working by measure, and the latter by time. Holers decidedly are skilled workmen, turnsmen more or less so. Turnsmen include all who have the full stated wages, though of these the "getters" do not work the whole 12 hours; out of 100 labourers at the pits or the furnaces, or generally employed about the works, the proportion per cent. of the different classes are at present in our works— Men - - - - - - 63 Boys - - - - - - 24 Women and girls - - - - 13 100	- - Colliers may be divided into three classes, holers, getters and children, of which the getters may be termed the more skilful.	- - There are two classes of men working in the coal and mine pits. First class, those called turnsmen, who work the 12 hours in the day; these men will earn 3 *s.* 6 *d.* per day, working the 12 hours. Second class are those working by stint, commonly called holers, who have a certain quantity of work to do for a certain sum of money. These men will work their stint, and earn 3 *s.* in seven hours; and if trade will furnish labour for men as now (1836), the able-bodied of this class of men may work one-and-a-half day and earn 4 *s.* 6 *d.*; but it is the able-bodied only that can do this.	- - Skilled labourers, engineers, fitters, (blacksmiths,) pattern-makers.	—
2. Rate of wages of each class per diem, of the wife, of the children, stating whether with or without perquisites?	- - For the last 20 years, including the year of great depression, 1816, and also a year of extraordinary energy, 1825, the average wages of the holers have been 2 *s.* 3 ½ *d.* per day, and of the turnsmen 2 *s.* 9 ½ *d.* Women who work only on the bank may be stated at 1 *s.* per day. Boys from 9 to 15 years of age from 7 *d.* to 1 *s.* 6 *d.* per day, varying much from local circumstances.	- - Wages per day: Holers - - - 3/3 Getters - - - 3/6 Children 8 years old - /4 — 10 ditto /6 to /8 — 12 ditto - 1/2 — 14 to 15 ditto - 1/8 Wives are occupied in domestic affairs.	- - The rate of wages is answered above; in addition to which boys at 9 years of age earn /9 p' day. 12 - ditto - 1/6 — 14 - ditto - 2/3 — 16 - ditto - 2/9 — The able-bodied at 18 years of age will earn men's wages. As it respects the wife, an able-bodied woman, if no family, will earn 1 *s.* 4 *d.* per day. As it respects the children, a man with six children may have a boy to earn from 9 *d.* to 1 *s.* 6 *d.* per day, and a girl to earn 4 *d.* to 6 *d.* per day.	Engineers - 15/ to 25/ p' week. Fitters - - 25/ — Pattern makers, 18/ to 20/ — Holers - - 3/3 p' day. Turnsmen - - 3/8 — Boys and girls, according to their ages, from - /8 to 2/ — Women about - 1/2 —	Present Rate. Blacksmiths - - 3/6 Engineers - - - 3/6 Boys from 13 to 18 - 2/4 Brick-moulders - - 3/ Assistants, chiefly girls - /10 Joiners and carpenters - 3/ Pattern-makers - - 4/ Wife and elder girls at the pit - - - 1/ Boys in the pit - - /9 Holers (work 8 hours per day) - - - 3/3 Getters (work 10 hours per day) - - - 3/6

(*continued*)

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS, First Series.	ANSWERS, Second Series.	ANSWERS, Third Series.	ANSWERS, Fourth Series.	ANSWERS, Fifth Series.
Power of obtaining them: 3. Does the work last through the whole year?	- - The seasons make no difference in the iron works, though the pits used for supply of sale-coal slacken in work during the summer.	Yes - - - - - -	- - At pits worked for coal, and mines for the making of iron, the men are employed the whole year. At sale coal-pits they are not always employed the whole year.	——	——
4. If so, what proportion of time per week is occupied?	- - Five days a week is reckoned full work for colliers, and is, for so laborious an occupation, quite sufficient.	- - Colliers generally work 11 days in the fortnight, or five and a half days per week; but during good times, as the present, many of them may be said not to work more than eight or nine days in the fortnight. When the rate of wages is lower, they work more constantly, and their families generally are quite as well off.	- - As it respects the portion of time occupied, the first class must work his 12 hours to earn his 3 *s.* 6 *d.*; the second class must work hard seven hours to do his day's work, and earn his 3 *s.*; and the able-bodied, as answered in the first question, by very hard labour may do his one-and-a-half turns, and earn his 4 *s.* 6 *d.*	Five days.	——
5. How many days is a week's work, and in what period could it be performed by a good workman?	- - The only portion of this question not answered in the foregoing is as to the time occupied by a "holer" in his day's work. This varies from six to eight hours, according to skill and strength.	- - Six days is considered a week's work, and might be performed in less time than that.	- - Five days is considered a week for the 12 hour man earning his 3 *s.* 6 *d.* Seven and a half days' work would be the most for the skilful stint man to do in his five days, and earn his 4 *s.* 6 *d.* per day.	- - A day's work in six hours, but there is a great difference in the nature of the work.	- - Except brickmakers, five days a week.
6. Could he work during the whole or any part of the remainder without injuring his health?	- - Over time has always been done more or less in the pits by holers, and now very generally, so as to make their wages nearly equal to those of the turnsmen. A collier is seldom disposed to do much other work after his proper labour, unless he has a garden close at home.	- - A strong healthy man may do more than a week's work, say seven or eight days, without injury to himself; but the great evil with colliers is, they over stimulate themselves by their irregular habits of living. After having received their wages, which is once a fortnight, they live on the fat of the land for the first three or four days, and during the remainder they are obliged to starve themselves. With many it is either a feast or a fast.	- - As before stated, the 12 hours man cannot do any more work in the day, nor can the man working seven-and-a-half turns in the week, or one and-a half turns each day for five days, for, as before named, they must be the most skilful and able-bodied men that perform that portion of work.	- - He is not capable of following any other labour.	——

7. At what age does a man earn full wages; and how soon does he begin to fail?	- - At 18 a collier may be said to get men's wages, and would probably do his work to 60.	- - Eighteen to 20 years of age. He fails about 45.	- - Healthy strong boys, 18 years of age, will earn men's wages, and do not begin to fail until they arrive at 40 or 45 years of age. The less healthy cannot earn men's wages until they are 20 or 22 years of age, and begin to fail at 35 to 40 years of age.	- - At 18, and fails at from 45 to 50.	- - At 18. From 40 to 50; subject to asthma, especially miners.
8. Taking 30 years, during how many would the works, on the average, be in full operation?	- - This is a question of some difficulty, as works accommodate themselves to the demand, and most are prepared to do what an emergency only would require. It is very rarely that they are in full operation.	- - Difficult to answer. Past experience would give us perhaps 20 out of the 30.	- - Taking the 30 years, the works may be in full operation 20 years. It depends on trade.	- - Ten years at five days per week; wages high. Getters and turnsmen 3*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 8*d.* per day. Holers 3*s.* 3*d.* to 3*s.* 5*d.*	- - Ten years high wages; ten years moderate, sufficient for maintenance; ten years depression or stagnation.
9. During how many in partial operation, and in what proportion, viz. for three days per week, or for four &c.?	- - The best answer to this question may be inferred from the statement annexed of the number of weeks in the last 20 years, during which the wages as stated were given, as wages are in a great measure regulated by the demand, which influences the scale of working.	- - During five years out of the 30; at work four days out of the week.	- - Those pits raising sale-coal would be in operation the whole of the 30 years, but would not average more than three to four days per week: and at those pits it often happens that not very able-bodied men are employed, the able-bodied not being content with so small a portion of labour.	- - Ten years at five days per week, but wages low, say, getters 2*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 10*d.*, holers 2*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*	—
10. During how many entirely suspended?	- - In the year 1816 some iron works in Shropshire were wholly suspended. I know of no instance since then.	- - During great part of 1816 and 1817 many of the works were entirely suspended.	It is impossible to say.	- - Four years about three days per week; holers 1*s.* 10*d.*; getters 2*s.* 2*d.* Six years bad, about two days per week; same wages.	—
11. What becomes of the labourers under the two last questions? Do they find work elsewhere, or do they fall back on their parishes?	- - Colliers are always migratory, and they are so during scarcity of work, certainly. Since the year 1816 very few instances of able-bodied colliers receiving more than a little occasional help have occurred.	- - No, not during the above period; they were supported by the parish.	- - As to what becomes of the labourers under the two last questions, they are mostly men of weak bodies who take up with this portion of work, and are not able to do other work, though ever so simple. Of course the parish must take care of them.	- - Young men travel into distant mining countries to obtain work, and the old men fall on the parish, being, as stated in answer to question six, unable to follow any other labour.	- - Not half maintained. Colliers past full work may obtain some work connected with the mines as labourers at a rate of (six days a week) 1*s.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*, but become quite unfitted for agricultural labourers. Their children generally assist them as far and as long as they are able. They must gradually fall back on the parishes.

(*continued*)

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS, First Series.	ANSWERS, Second Series.	ANSWERS, Third Series.	ANSWERS, Fourth Series.	ANSWERS, Fifth Series.
Power of obtaining them—continued.					
12. For what other description of work is such a labourer fitted?	- - A collier will make a "labourer" at any time. Many of them are good harvest men, and during that season lend their help to the farmer, often to the inconvenience of their masters.	- - Fitted for very few other occupations; cannot obtain more than 8 *s.* or 9 *s.* per week.	- - Intelligent able-bodied men and boys do employ the vacant hours in cultivating their gardens, and at harvest work, but there is not any other work that they are able to perform that offers itself; and it is therefore most desirable that, in the mining districts, the labouring classes should be furnished with as much land as they can conveniently cultivate for vegetables, &c. for their families.	- - None, except working on the roads or in the quarries.	—
Accidents that interfere:					
13. Out of 100 men, taken at the commencement of the presumed period of 30 years, what would be the proportion that, during that time, would meet with accidents temporarily disabling them? What with accidents permanently disabling them? And what with fatal ones?	- - I cannot at present attempt to classify the accidents, but may state generally that with us few are fatal, and few permanently disabling. The annexed account of the operation of our "Field Club" will show that an effective insurance would be no heavy drawback on the wages earned.	- - Most, if not all, of the 100 would meet with accidents disabling them temporarily; 25 per cent. would be injured permanently. Could be told better by the number of colliers exempt from being drawn for the militia by disabling accidents: 30 per cent. fatal accidents.	- - Out of 100 men in 30 years 75 would meet with slight accidents, 15 men would be wholly disabled, and 10 fatal.	- - About one in 50 every year may meet with fatal accidents; one in 70 permanent disability; one in 30 temporary disability.	- - According to the registers for the last seven years, out of 31 deaths of males under 20 there were 16 accidents; out of 51 deaths above 20 and under 50, 12 accidents; out of 51 deaths above 50, two accidents. Few or none escape accidents; and a large proportion meet with accidents that disable them for a longer or shorter time.
14. What effect has underground labour upon the average duration of life, or in inducing peculiar diseases?	- - Rheumatism and asthma are the two prevailing disabling diseases of the collier; damp and bad air the presumed causes.	- - It induces pulmonary affections, peripneumony and consumption, arising from dust and foul air; also dyspeptic affections from the position in which they work; but in all probability the latter is greatly increased by their irregular mode of living. Aneurism is almost unknown amongst the working colliers.	- - In the agricultural districts the labourer will be as able to follow his employ at 60 years of age as the labourer in the mining districts will be when he shall arrive at 40 to 45 years of age. In the coal and ironstone pits the men labour very hard during the hours they work, and compress themselves into such postures to perform their work, and with that imbibe so much impure air upon their lungs, that they very soon be come asthmatic; and it is not uncommon to see men labouring heavily under that disease at 40 to 50 years of age with all the appearance of old age.	- - The occupation of an ironstone miner and collier produces asthma, and reduces the duration of life, as regards them, to from 40 to 45, miners, and 50 to 55, colliers.	——

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In addition to the above answers, I obtained the following table of the actual amount of wages paid in Shropshire, in those employments, for the last 20 years, from the 1st of January 1816 to the 31st December 1835. It is as follows:

	Holers.			Turnsmen.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
From January 1816 to November 1817 - -	–	2	–	–	2	6
– Nov. 1817 to January 1818 - -	–	2	3	–	2	9
– January 1818 to July 1818 - -	–	2	5	–	2	11
– July 1818 to January 1819 - -	–	2	7	–	3	1
– January 1819 to February 1821 - -	–	2	11	–	3	5
– Feb. 1821 to March 1822 - -	–	2	5	–	2	11
– March 1822 to January 1824 - -	–	2	2	–	2	8
– January 1824 to October 1824 - -	–	2	5	–	2	11
– October 1824 to January 1825 - -	–	2	9	–	3	3
– January 1825 to April 1826 - -	–	3	3	–	3	9
– April 1826 to September 1826 - -	–	2	9	–	3	3
– Sept. 1826 to April 1828 - -	–	2	3	–	2	9
– April 1828 to June 1829 - -	–	2	–	–	2	6
– June 1829 to January 1830 - -	–	1	10	–	2	4
– January 1830 to January 1832 - -	–	1	8	–	2	2
– January 1832 to October 1833 - -	–	1	11	–	2	5
October 1833 to November 1833 - -	–	2	2	–	2	8
– Nov. 1833 to January 1834 - -	–	2	5	–	2	11
– January 1834 to August 1834 -	–	2	6	–	3	–
– August 1834 to December 1835 - -	–	2	3	–	2	9
Average for 20 Years, or 1,040 Weeks - £.	–	2	3½		2	9½

From the foregoing table, the number of weeks during which, for the last 20 years, a miner or collier could earn any specific rate of wages, has been as under.

		Holers.		Turnsmen.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.
For 642 weeks, below the average -	104 weeks -	pr day 1	8	2	2
	26 — -	— 1	10	2	4
	92 — -	— 1	11	2	5
	160 — -	— 2	–	2	6
	100 — -	— 2	2	2	8
	160 — -	— 2	3	2	9
For 398 weeks, above the average -	136 — -	— 2	5	2	11
	28 — -	— 2	6	3	–
	28 — -	— 2	7	3	1
	34 — -	— 2	9	3	3
	108 — -	— 2	11	3	5
	64 — -	— 3	3	3	9
20 years or	1,040 average	2	3½	2	9½

But in looking at the question of wages it must be remembered, that the week's work of the collier is only five days, and that in point of physical exhaustion this is as much as a labourer can be fairly expected to perform. It is probably quite equal to the six days of the agricultural labourer. Hence the average rate of wages per week would be about 11 *s.* 6 *d.* for holers, and 13 *s.* for turnsmen, while that upon the land has been about 9 *s.*; or the wages in the mines show respectively an excess over that of the agriculturist of about 28 and 33 per cent.

If, however, our inquiries were to terminate here we should have arrived at a very erroneous conclusion. High as these wages apparently are, the point with which the labourer is more immediately concerned is not the rate of wages, but the power of obtaining them, and the constancy of their duration. Now from the evidence that is already before us, it is clear that over long periods the work of the miner is partial and uncertain. In looking at the table immediately preceding, it appears that out of 20 consecutive years the rate of wages has been below the average for no less a period than 642 weeks, or that the ratio of low to that of full wages was as 62 to 38. If we divide the rate of wages into three equal portions,

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and consider these as the indices of the demand for work, we arrive at the following result.

Range of wages, from 1 *s.* 8 *d.* to 2 *s.* 2 *d.*, or bad work	482 weeks	or 46 per cent.
Ditto - - - from 2 *s.* 3 *d.* to 2 *s.* 7 *d.*, or middling work	352 —	34 —
Ditto - - - from 2 *s.* 9 *d.* to 3 *s.* 3 *d.*, or full work -	206 —	20 —
	1,040 weeks,	100 parts.

Or, taking the presumed period of 30 years, about 14 of them would be bad, 10 middling, and six full work. Now in the first period the miner would probably obtain not more than three days' work, in the second four, and in the third only the full five days per week, or the real period of work would be reduced from 30 to 22,4 years. So that in point of fact, in a period of that duration, an agricultural labourer in steady employment would probably earn actually a larger amount of wages than a collier or miner could from his own peculiar employment. Besides this also, it is to be observed that the working period of the latter's life is at the least 10 years shorter than that of the agricultural workman; consequently, not only is the period of his power of acquiring income less, but, unless premature disease should, as it mostly does, superinduce an early death, the period of disability from age, which should be provided for in the years of activity, becomes proportionately lengthened.

Let it, however, be granted, that the rate of wages is sufficient to enable the labourer to insure against the disability of age; still an important question remains to be decided, how far his power of obtaining those wages may be interfered with by the casualties to which his occupation is liable. Against accident of this description, it is evident that no rate of wages can be sufficiently high to enable a labourer to become his own insurer. He can only insure by enrolling himself in a society of which the members may be sufficiently numerous to afford an average of casualty approaching to certainty. As far as age is concerned, as far as sickness is concerned, or premature death with all its consequences, hitherto the parish has been the only insurer. But against accidents of a temporary nature, the mining labourers, at the instance and by the assistance of their masters, have in these parts insured for themselves. The clubs which are established for these purposes are called field clubs, and the following account of one of them has been furnished to me by a gentleman, to whom I am indebted for one of the most valuable of the series of answers before inserted.

"The Madeley Wood Company's Field Club has been established more than 30 years. The funds are raised by a payment from men of 2 *d.* per week, and women, boys and girls 1 *d.* For this they are entitled to the attendance of a medical man in case of accident, and to men a payment of 5 *s.* per week, and to women, boys and girls 2 *s.* 6 *d.* per week, whilst they remain on the books, or rather for six months full pay, and a second six months at half pay, should they so long continue to require it, and then to cease.

"For the last 15 years this payment has been found not only sufficient for the purposes of the club, but an accumulation of capital (out of which further help has been given in cases of severe accident) has taken place to the extent of nearly 10 per cent. of the deposits.

"The average annual sum received for the five years past is 197 *l.* 9 *s.* 6 *d.*, equal to constant weekly payments on the wages of 455 men.

"The average weekly allowances for the same period is 141 *l.* 19 *s.**, equal to nearly 11 men on the disabled list for the whole year. The disabled therefore are as 1 to 41 †, or in other words 7 ½ days' 'play ‡' to each man from accident in the year.

"The payments and receipts of the club bear nearly the same proportion since the workmen generally have been included, as when colliers and miners only; so that it would appear that the accidents to colliers would not be more than to those employed in the works in other ways."

In the above statement, however, it is assumed, that all the payments are made by men. But the proportion of individuals employed is, in point of fact, as two men to one boy or girl (including women). The real number of contributors will therefore be as under:

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
364 men, at 8 *s.* 8 *d.* per annum - - -	157	14	8
182 boys, &c. at 4 *s.* 4 *d.* - - - -	39	8	8
£.	197	3	4

As the payments to women and children are half those to men, the assumed number of cases of accident to 11 men is equal to accidents to 10 men and two women, which perhaps may

* Out of the difference is defrayed the surgeon's salary, medicines, &c., and the 10 per cent. accumulation is the residue.

† The ratio, in point of fact, is 2,41 per cent.; but it must be borne in mind that this is the average not only of those who suffer, but of those that escape; and therefore those who really do meet with accidents will suffer to a very considerably greater extent. The former ratio is good as a measure of insurance, but not as a measure of what the individual may have to sustain.

‡ The word "play," in these districts, is the expression for not working, whether from illness or otherwise.

may be about the real proportion, as almost all the accidents happen to the men. We consequently get the ratio of about 2,74 per cent. of accidents per annum to men, and of 1,10 per cent. to women. In round numbers this may be taken as three per cent. to men and one to women, and multiplying it as before by the 30 years, we arrive at 90 per cent. of accident, which coincides with the preceding answers, that most, if not all, the men would meet with accidents in that period.

The fact, however, that an accumulation has taken place upon the deposits to an extent of nearly 10 per cent., which has been used for further help in cases of severe or fatal accidents, will afford some data from which we may argue. From the inquiries I made, it appeared that about one-half, or 5 per cent. upon the deposits, had been actually distributed, and that upon the average about 50 *s.* had been given in each case. Now 5 per cent. upon the deposits, taking them all as from men, would be about 5 *d.* per annum from each labourer, or it would require the accumulation of 120 labourers for the year to meet each case where assistance to the extent mentioned may have been afforded. Hence it would appear, that the ratio of severe or fatal accident per annum is one out of 120, or 5-6ths per cent. Extend this ratio over the period of 30 years, which we have assumed as the working life of the collier, and it becomes in that time 25 per cent.; or, in other words, out of 100 men employed in the works for the full period of 30 years, one-fourth may expect to meet with severe or fatal accidents.

It is curious, after having derived a proportion, as the foregoing, from actual calculation, to compare it with the other statements that we have received from different and unconnected individuals, and to test the accuracy of each by the comparison of all.

We have arrived by calculation at something like a ratio of severe and fatal accident of 25 per cent. The second series of answers above given states, that 25 per cent. would be injured permanently and 30 per cent. fatally. The third says, 15 would be wholly disabled and 10 fatal. The fourth says, about 2 per cent. per annum would be fatal and 1 in 70 permanent disability; and the fifth gives from actual registration 30 fatal accidents out of 133 deaths; or, to speak more accurately, out of 51 deaths, between the ages of 20 and 50 (which is the period we are concerned with), there were 12 accidents, or as nearly as possible 24 per cent. This latter statement applies to deaths only, and not to cases of accident that survive.

On looking to the Population Returns of 1831, and comparing the table of mortality in Salop with an agricultural county, as for instance Sussex, we may approach in some measure the proportion of the duration of life with a view to this part of our investigation. As the women here do not work in the mines, and are not liable to the same casualties as the men, the comparison of the period of death between the sexes in each county will seem in some degree to illustrate this question. Commencing with the period of life, from 40 to 50 years of age, when the colliers first begin to fail, we find the following facts:

YEARS OF AGE.	SALOP.		SUSSEX.	
	Deaths per Cent.		Deaths per Cent.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
From 40 to 49 - - - - - -	15	14	14	16
- 50 to 59 - - - - - -	20	16	19	19
- 60 to 69 - - - - - -	33	29	31	31
- 70 to 79 - - - - - -	60	52	61	59

The ratio of mortality, therefore, between the above ages, amongst the males as compared with the females, appears to be evidently much greater in Salop than in Sussex. Could the returns for the mining districts of this county be separately extracted, they would, without doubt, furnish much stronger evidence.

That the casualties of accident up to a certain point are insurable, the field clubs already prove. Neither that the other casualties, or that the certainty of age, are equally so, can there be any question. But before parties can insure with safety to themselves, there must be accurate data to reason upon, and there must be also a certainty in the continuance of the society. The field clubs partake in a great measure of these conditions, because they are an annual payment in respect of an annual return, and are based upon the continuing credit of the masters for whom the parties work. But they embrace no cases of permanency, and the risk consequently expires with the year. For accidents of permanent duration, or age, something in the nature of benefit societies appears to be the only remedy, and these, some years since, were very general in the mining districts. The cause of their decay (and they are now nearly extinct) has been that from the premature imbecility of the workmen in these parts, young lives have refused to join the old societies, and have rather instituted a new club of their own, than unite themselves with existing and already burthened establishments. That there was an apparent reason for this one cannot but admit, but still the result has been in the end equally fatal to the new ones as to the old. They in turn have been deserted; their funds have ceased to be recruited from younger lives, and all have alike ended in a premature dissolution, if not in actual insolvency.

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The remedy that suggests itself for this state of things is that clubs to embrace these objects should be divided into two classes, one to furnish medical assistance, the other for the payment of annuities of definite amount, and for fixed purposes. One of each only, or at any rate of the latter description, should be legal and chartered in each locality, in order that the enlarged range of its operations might secure a truer average. If the value of the insurance could be accurately ascertained, the guarantee of the Government itself might be added for its permanency, and no excuse afforded for refusing to subscribe. Could these be so brought into general operation, the greater part of the necessity for the poor laws would be then extinguished, and every reason for continuing them, except upon the sternest scale, entirely at an end. The question of wages might then be securely allowed to take its own course, as we may be satisfied that unless they were sufficient to enable the labourer to pay the value of his insurance, he would soon withdraw himself to less dangerous and less uncertain occupations.

But so long as the poor laws are to be administered on their late profuse and extravagant system, clubs of this sort will be wholly inoperative. The character of the miner is like that of the sailor, greedy of present enjoyment, and careless of the future. The very scenes they live in contribute to this feeling, and the maxim they act upon is too unhappily, "let us eat and drink to-day, for to-morrow we die." The following extracts from an address to them on the severe distresses of 1816, by a magistrate who lived in the centre of them, is a melancholy but true description of their habits:

"When work and money were to be had, and you were in comparison in a state of prosperity, did you use and enjoy these blessings with moderation, sobriety and thankfulness? When I mention drunkenness, do I not name a sin most common, not only among men, but among almost children? What scenes of revelling and debauchery, of gambling and even fighting, might be witnessed after every reckoning, and even on the Lord's day itself. But this is not all. Remember the pride and insolence of many; they would work when they pleased and play when they pleased, and often refused to work when wanted to do it, to the great injury of their masters and trade in general. Recollect the extravagance, the luxury, the self-indulgence of numbers. While the men besot themselves with ale, the women more privately indulge in the gin bottle. By how many were almost the whole earnings of a fortnight eaten and drunk in two or three days! Some who are now going to the parish for relief would give any price in the market for poultry or what they had a fancy to; and even professed not to care for a pound or two, to have one single dress a little finer, or more tasty, as they say, than ordinary."

The surgeon to the Madeley Wood field club told me he thought that at least as much of the premature decay of the miner was induced by drinking as by the deleterious description of the labour; and when I asked him whether the nature of the work was such as to require strong stimulants, he replied, "Certainly not, and that in fact when at their work they generally drank tea, but after their pay-days, which are once a fortnight, they will remain for days together at the beer shop." The usual custom of this class is to allow their wives and families a certain fixed income out of their wages, and to expend the difference, whatever it may be, on their own personal gratification. Hence the families derive little or no advantage from a period of prosperity, but must share in the hardships of a season of adversity. That during the former periods the miners would have large powers of insuring, there can be no question. Whether that could be done under a more wholesome system at all times, experience alone could prove.

Such are the data that I have been able to obtain as to the economy of the mining districts of Shropshire. That they present an unhealthy and unnatural appearance, I think we can hardly doubt, but there is nothing in the symptoms to lead us to despair of an ultimate though gradual cure.

The prohibition of all out-door relief, as far as practicable, and the strict administration of the workhouse system on the one hand, and increased facilities and securities for insurances, such as I have adverted to, on the other, would, I believe, in a few years introduce the legitimate remedy. Parishes would no longer be able to pay the bribe for their labourers to remain at a distance, and then these descriptions of labour would cease to flow in, unless wages adjusted themselves to the corresponding demand. For it must not be forgotten that a large portion of labour in the mines is skilled labour, and unless it can be retained during periods of depression, is not readily procured when a sudden and rapid state of activity takes place.

The only other point upon which this county offers any subject of comment, is the history of the incorporations with which it abounds. It differs from many other districts in this respect, that instead of adopting the provisions of the 22 Geo. 2 (Gilbert's Act), most of them are under local Acts passed nearly about the same period. It would seem, from the expenses that must have been incurred in the procuring of fresh enactments, that the fallacy of the 22 Geo. 2 had already been perceived, and that it was felt to be hopeless to contend against pauperism with a law whose preamble recited that it was intended to correct those hardships which nature had ordained as the conditions of improvidence, and whose provisions declared that able-bodied paupers should not only not be sent to the house, but be even provided with work at fair wages near their own homes.

Of these incorporations the number is five, of which the original type was that of Shrewsbury*, the history of whose rise, decline and abandonment, as curious and not uninstructive, I shall

* The House of Industry at Salop was originally a branch establishment of the Foundling Hospital in London; and it was from its inmates that the eccentric author of Sandford and Merton selected the Lucretia and Sabrina of his romantic history.

I shall proceed to give. It owed its origin to the zeal of a Mr. Isaac Wood, of that borough, who, alarmed at the rapid increase of poor-rates, even in those early times, persuaded the inhabitants of the six parishes of Shrewsbury to avail themselves of the opportunity of purchasing for a workhouse a large building that was then on sale, and to incorporate themselves under an Act passed in the 24 Geo. 3. The objects, as stated in the preamble, were, that " the establishment of a house of industry would tend to the employment of the industrious, and such as are able to work; to the correction and punishment of the idle, refractory and profligate; to the education of the infant poor in the habits of industry and religion; and to the advantage of themselves and the said parishes, whereby the said poor, instead of being wholly supported by the public, would contribute to the support and assistance and relief of each other, and be of some advantage to the community;" which is subsequently explained to mean, that " when the clear benefit and profit arising from the labour of the poor within the said house of industry shall be sufficient for their maintenance, then the poor's-rate shall cease in the said parishes."

The establishment was commenced in August 1784, and was superintended by Mr. Wood and many other directors with parental watchfulness, and with enthusiastic hopes and promises of success. In a publication of that day it was asserted that the progress of the Shrewsbury institution towards all the perfection that human institutions were capable of, was rapid and glorious; and that there was some apparent ground for this we cannot but conclude, from the rapidity of the contagion which so shortly matured into a neighbouring existence the other costly and similarly cumbrous establishments of the county.

In the preface to the fourth edition of Mr. Wood's tract upon this subject, published in 1790, he says, " we may now congratulate ourselves that the chief difficulties are surmounted; and I trust we shall never be unmindful of our peculiar obligations to those patriotic citizens who first laboured in this vineyard, cleared it of those noxious weeds with which it was overrun, and planted in their stead order, decency, industry and virtue."

Symptoms, however, of a different tendency soon discovered themselves, and Mr. Wood himself shortly afterwards records, " that the directors had lost the superintendence and control over the general management, the contracts, and all the proceedings of the house, and had imposed a blind and implicit confidence in the steward."

Notwithstanding the promises that poor-rates would altogether cease, notwithstanding the attention paid to the new establishment by the early directors, the rates of the united parishes went on increasing, and the number of the out-poor went on multiplying.

The average expenditure of the poor in the six parishes, in 12 years preceding the house of industry, amounted to 2,761 *l.* 16 *s.* 8 *d.* yearly; the average expenditure during 12 years after the Act was in operation, amounted to 3,466 *l.* 6 *s.* 9 *d.* yearly; and during the latter 12 years considerable sums had also been borrowed on mortgage. Even during the first six years, the delusion and frailty of the project might have been apparent, if its magnitude and complexity had not concealed its defects from the directors.

It is recorded by the first steward, that in the sixth year the rates levied (though exceeding those granted by the Act) were insufficient for the expenditure, and that the house was 600 *l.* in debt for borrowed money more than the cost of purchasing it, besides also large bills unpaid. The debt increased yearly, and money was advanced by several gentlemen to assist to carry the institution on. But it was only a temporary matter; and at Easter 1796 it was agreed by the board not to follow that ruinous way of borrowing, but to meet the evil and raise rates to reduce the debt, which was adopted.

In 1798 Mr. Wood brought before the board bold and serious charges against the then steward of extravagant and unexplained expenditure in beer, flour, &c.; and the officer, after delivering to the board his defence, was " permitted to resign." It is remarkable, however, that during this period of alleged mismanagement by the steward, the directors had voted him yearly a gratuity, sometimes 50 *l.*, in addition to his salary. He reigned 14 years.

At this period the steady observation and sound understanding of one of the directors, Sir Charles Oakeley, discovered the inherent defects of the plan, and he thus recorded his opinion on the 7th November 1798.

" Judging," says he, " from the vast increase in the expenses of the house, I am inclined to think there is something faulty, not in the executive administration only, but also in the principles on which the general conduct of this place is founded. Where so much is left to servants, and the control is uncertain and fluctuating, no steady course of management can be expected. Relaxation soon affects the whole system; and the consequences must appear, not only in an increased expense, but in the decay of industry among the poor, and a general failure of all those hopes which were entertained of this institution at its commencement."

No observations could be more just and true. Had it not been for the blind but benevolent enthusiasm of some individuals in its favour, and the evils of the system being chiefly out of public view, in consequence of the complexity and magnitude of the concern, and its management being in the hands of a few, the institution would probably have fallen at this early period. Its faults, however, were ascribed to the steward, and to the consequent " decay of industry " in the house.

Accordingly the manufactory was again carried on with great zeal; but the greater the exertions in this department, the greater the losses became; till, in 1806, the machinery was sold; and thus vanished the illusions of " the poor becoming of advantage to the community," and of " the extinguishing the poor-rates by the profits of their labour." At this period the second steward voluntarily resigned, after continuing in office eight years.

The ruinous effects of this system were supposed to be now discovered, and were attri-

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buted to the manufactory. The principal and original feature of this system was, that the poor should be made to labour profitably in the house; yet this, its chief feature, it was now deemed expedient to abandon. Up to this time the highest number of averages had been 19; their number, however, advanced, till, in 1814, they became 29. In that year deficiencies in flour, &c. could not be accounted for by the steward and matron, and both were discharged. This reign was eight years.

A consciousness of the incompetency of the board to prevent fraud, and to check expenditure, induced them to make the experiment of farming the poor for one year. The cruelty of this plan caused it to be abandoned at the end of the year.

The steward who succeeded is now under sentence of transportation, and it is sufficient to say, that the cash-book is a witness that his embezzlements commenced within six months after his election, and continued till the period of his dismissal. He reigned 11 years.

This brief view of the administration of the Shrewsbury House of Industry is sufficient to show that there had been no vigilant control over the expenditure, nor an effectual audit*. There had been no lists of the inmates fed and clothed during many years. When the directors assembled them on August 16, 1822, to ascertain the actual number, it appeared that there were fewer, by 48, than had been charged in the House accounts as fed and clothed therein.

If the expenditure had been thus unchecked, misdirected and extravagant, neither had the inmates been employed, even though there were many in the house able to work; nor had the institution been a school "for the educating the infant poor in habits of industry," which the Act purposed to render it. The materials for clothing the inmates were not manufactured, nor generally made up by them; even yarn for stockings was not spun, nor had knitting been always done. It is on record that one or two individual directors did attempt to establish a school of industry, by instructing women and children in straw-plaiting and knitting, but the attempt was overruled by a majority of directors.

The morality of the plan corresponded with its promised industry. During the year 1823, it was reported four of the unmarried domestic servants became mothers, and not for the first or second time only. Women who came to lie-in within the house remained there seven months afterwards, without the directors knowing it. The lodge at the sick-house, which for years had been kept by one man, was a known brothel, by which he derived profit. The only passage to the women's dormitories was through the apartments of the single men. A family of five children was discovered to have been born and reared in the house, where they remained with the mother, while the husband was earning a guinea a week, sometimes near Shrewsbury, and subsequently near Liverpool, whence he occasionally visited his wife in the house, by permission of the steward.

The person who had the temporary superintendence of the house in 1824, reported to the directors, "that there was no system acted upon; that the paupers, men, women and children, were not properly employed; and that owing to the inattention of the nurses, and want of a weekly change of linen and beds, some of the inmates were swarming with lice. The children were not kept clean, nor kept to school, and economy, industry, and religious instructions were entirely lost sight of."

Such was the state of this celebrated establishment, immediately prior to its dissolution in 1826. The account might appear liable to the charge of misrepresentation and exaggeration, but it is taken, almost *verbatim*, from the minutes of the directors, and from a report of a committee of their own guardians.

The incorporation was dissolved, a new Act was obtained, and a new system commenced. Pecuniarily speaking, there has been some saving; but in other respects the change has been in form alone. There is still no discipline, no classification, no labour, no instruction. The directors have the control only of the house and the in-door poor. The administration of the out-relief, and the ordering of paupers into the house, rest with the select vestries of the different parishes. Serious misunderstandings have from time to time arisen between the directors and these vestries, until the former refused the latter the inspection of their own paupers within the establishment. The largest parish in the incorporation therefore came to a resolution not to send any more to the house, and for some time actually hired a distinct house for its separate use.

The house of the incorporation is at present farmed at 3 *s.* per head, exclusive of clothing and medical attendance. The governor complains that sufficient paupers are not sent there to

* In 1821, the palpable excesses in the items "coals" and "meat," as stated in the directors' printed abstract of the expenditure, became matters for public newspaper animadversion. The consequent reductions in the next years are remarkable.

	In the Year 1821.	In the Year 1822.	In the Year 1823.
	£. *s.* *d.*	£. *s.* *d.*	£. *s.* *d.*
Meat - - -	974 17 10	448 16 5	320 15 5
Coals - - -	234 13 1	146 5 11	77 2 7
£.	1,209 10 11	595 2 4	397 18 -

to make it answer; and of course, with this feeling he can have no inducement to introduce such a discipline as would diminish even his present number.* Pregnant single women are admitted, as a matter of course, to lie-in in the house; and at the end of the month he considers it his business to look out for places for them as wet nurses. Their children are provided for in the cottages of the neighbourhood, and themselves receive the reward of their prostitution. Upon my forwarding to the directors a representation that had been made to me, that the governor himself had been charged by one of the inmates with having qualified her for such a situation, and requesting their investigation of the truth of it, they returned for answer, that as the woman in question, though, in the first instance, a pauper in the house, was then his hired servant therein, they did not consider the subject came under their cognizance. Further comment I apprehend unnecessary.

Why, then, do I mention these facts, but to demonstrate, from still accumulating proofs, that the systems that have been hitherto acted upon have had within them the inherent causes of decay; that they have all alike wanted the fixedness of principle, which, in fluctuating bodies, can alone exist but by coercion, a coercion that must be enforced by a pressure from without. Systems founded upon the moral feeling of the pauper, the activity of public officers, and the courage or discrimination of magistrates, as long as human nature remains unchanged, must necessarily ultimately fail. "Nothing, indeed," says Bishop Copleston, "is more natural than the history of such plans; they spring out of some strong necessity, or some prevailing opinion of the age; they are nursed with care in their infancy, and actively superintended by some benevolent and patriotic men; and while the zeal lasts, while the authors of them are flattered with observing their success, and are enabled to point to the fruits of their own exertions, no symptom of decay appears. But a life so precarious is shorter even than the life of man; it is commensurate, not with the existence, but with the activity only and the perseverance, of individuals, and seldom lives in full vigour through half a generation."

Coercion, then, is necessary; and coercion itself must be fortified by every prudent care to see its own decrees enforced. Every means must be used to protect them against the incessant attacks that, from within or without, are labouring to annul them. The hypocritical cant of self-interest, the zeal of bigotry, the mistaken views of a false and morbid humanity, and the general impotency of minds to escape from the chaos of individual cases and ascend to principles, all conspire, with fatal and unremitting energy, against the fairest chances of success.

This, then, is one of the many reasons why I have so strongly advocated the powers given by the Poor Law Amendment Act for the classification of paupers in a combined system of workhouses, rather than in the separate wards of a single building. In the latter case there is no efficient guarantee for the permanency of the system. Classification soon slides into non-classification; separation into almost promiscuous intercourse. In the former case, the system may indeed be abandoned and annihilated; but it cannot be weakened and yet continue to exist. Of the truth of this observation the first Shrewsbury Act is a melancholy illustration.† Its objects were "for the employment of the industrious, the correction and punishment of the profligate, and the education of the infant poor in the habits of industry and religion. How soon the classification here directed was departed from I have already shown.

There

* The system adopted here with vagrants is to give every one who applies to the parish officers a ticket to the governor of the workhouse, which entitles him to supper, bed and breakfast, for which the governor is repaid 4*d*. Upon my observing that the offer of this description of hospitality, unaccompanied by labour, was rather likely to induce than to deter such visitors, he candidly answered, that "he had no objection to it, as the more vagrants the more four pences."

† The following extract from Mr. Wood's Account of the Shrewsbury House of Industry (pp. 34–37, edit. 1795) deserves peculiar attention: "Let it never be forgotten that no other means can ever produce this most desirable reform but the separation of the young who are innocent from the vicious of riper age who would contaminate them. Pregnant single women and abandoned prostitutes are frequently removed to their parishes, and must be then taken in and provided for. These ought by all means to be kept totally apart from the young people, particularly the girls. If employed in the same apartments, lodged in the same dormitories, or more especially still, if suffered to associate with them during the hours allotted for exercise, on Sundays or holidays, when they are not under the eye or inspection of their governor or instructors, they will most inevitably corrupt their minds, and destroy those good impressions which it has been the labour of years to instil. Among the defects of the Shrewsbury Institution, the want of complete separation is, I believe, by far the most important. When the girls brought up in this house have arrived at that age in which their passions require the strictest guard and the strongest control, several instances have occurred of their being inveigled by women of that description I have mentioned, and persuaded to escape with them, and commence the same miserable career. These women are now kept in separate working rooms and dormitories; it only remains to render the separation complete, by removing them to a detached building. It will become every one seriously to consider how far he may make himself accountable for all the miseries and all the crimes of those unhappy girls who are thus seduced, by throwing any obstacles in the way of this most essential reform. It is a weighty, solemn thought, and cannot fail of making the deepest impression upon every humane and considerate mind. Much pity is undoubtedly due to many of that unhappy class of females I have spoken of; and it is that very principle that impels me to plead so earnestly for the separation proposed. Oh! let it be remembered that the poor girls, who from these parochial seminaries launch into the world, by losing their reputation, lose their bread. They have no friends to throw the veil of human kindness over human frailty, and when once fallen, too generally sink into irretrievable wretchedness and ruin."

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There are, besides, other considerations of deep importance connected with this view of the subject. There is the difficulty of properly maintaining two systems of discipline in the same house, or the necessity of subjecting the aged and infirm to the same coercion that is to operate upon the able-bodied. There is the danger of habituating the infant mind, in its earliest recollections, to an intimacy with the interior of a workhouse, which, in after life, will be regarded as the scene of his youth, and divested of that mysterious terror in which the untried workhouse of the combined system will be arrayed. Under the combined system, moreover, the children are securely separated from the contaminating leprosy of adult pauperism. No relaxation of the prescribed discipline can here interfere; neither does the master that they are ordered to obey shrink into the insignificance of a subordinate functionary of the paramount and perhaps opposing governor. To insure permanency of discipline, there must be no appellate jurisdiction.

And as to the aged and infirm (such at least as are compelled to seek the refuge of a poorhouse), surely it is more humane to remove them from even the possibility of contact with the noise and turmoil, the oaths and imprecations of the able-bodied, and to place them in a separate asylum, under a distinct management; and while their minds should be centered upon another and a better world, to separate them, in a secure seclusion, from those whose thoughts are engaged alone upon this life, and that too upon the worst part of it. Removed here from the annoyances they would otherwise hardly escape, assorted together by their habits and in their years, although we cannot promise happiness, we may at least insure them the means of content.*

I have, &c.

Salop, 26 May 1836. *William Day.*

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REPORT on the Counties of *Monmouth* and *Carmarthen*, and part of *Gloucester* and *Glamorgan*. By *George Clive*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Gentlemen, 1 June 1836.

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HAVING only been engaged about ten weeks in this district in the service of the Commission, and none of the seven Unions which I have formed during that period having yet come into full operation, my Report must be confined to the observations I have been enabled to make on the parochial system, as I found it existing in this part of the country, corroborated by the evidence of some intelligent witnesses.

The following remarks will apply to Monmouthshire and small portions of the counties of Gloucester and Glamorgan. I shall add a few observations separately on Carmarthenshire, in which I have made some progress.

State of opinion.

Although in this district I have encountered no determined resistance, but, on the contrary, have to acknowledge the assistance of many of the enlightened gentry, yet a general opinion seems to have prevailed that no advantage would be reaped from the introduction of the new system; 1st, Because able-bodied pauperism is comparatively unknown (although traces of its former existence and probable recurrence are not wanting); and, 2dly, Because the rates have in most parishes decreased to a certain amount during the past year.

I need not say that this opinion appears to me both short-sighted and ill-founded. It is clear that the comparative exemption from the worst evils of pauperism in this district is purely accidental, and that the parochial system is here, as elsewhere, incapable of meeting the evils engendered in a great measure by itself.

Wages and condition of district.

In the first place, wages are very high: in Chepstow men working on the roads get 12*s.* a week, and the general average of the county of Monmouth is not much below this; this is owing doubtless to the great and continually increasing demand at the iron works. 2dly. The system of contracting for the maintenance of the poor has been extensively adopted; the introduction of which alone proves that the evil has been much felt, and would be a reason for a change of system, because it gives the contractor a direct interest in making the pressure upon him appear as great as possible, and also in ill-using the friendless poor. Besides this, it entirely severs the link between the farmer and the lower orders.

In many cases I find the overseers entirely ignorant of the concerns of the parish. In Skeafrith, the wife and servants of the overseer did not know that he was in office; moreover,

* The only arguments that I hear of against the combined system are drawn from the apparent increase in the expense, and the difficulty of supervision. They are both fallacious to any practical extent. As to the first point, the number of officers is not augmented, they are only differently distributed. There must be a schoolmaster and schoolmistress, whether they reside in a central house or are the heads of distinct establishments. And as to the houses for the aged and infirm, the relieving officers are available as governors for them, instead of living in houses of their own. With regard to supervision, the aged require but little; and as to the schools, persons of respectability, especially females, will inspect a separate establishment, who will never enter the wards of a common house, where they may be subjected to the annoyances of contact with those who above all they would be anxious to avoid. I need hardly add the decided advantage of separating the mass of pauperism in detail, instead of familiarizing the public eye to the congestion of one unwieldy institution.

over, the farmers, as soon as the bargain is made with the contractor, throw all the unpopularity of economy upon him; as a proof of which, Mr. Harper, (one of the most intelligent men I here met with, and who has managed an incredible number of parishes as assistant overseer and contractor, being always sent for when there is a pressure,) in answer to me, when asking why he had introduced no dietary at the Llantilio Cressenny workhouse, and gave meat every day, said, "that he dared not do it, for the farmers would say immediately that he was cheating the parish and starving the poor."

Able-bodied pauperism.

Further, when an obstinate case of able-bodied pauperism does arise, the inability of the parish to deal with it appears most conspicuously. From many cases I select one: In the parish of Bettus, observing a sum of nearly 20*l.* paid for a great many years to one individual, the overseer, in answer to my questions, said, that this man was healthy and able, but somehow or other had always contrived to impose on the magistrates; that at last the parish in despair had, by a promise of 40*l.*, prevailed on him to emigrate with his wife and three children; however, when just about to step into the vessel, he refused to go unless the parish officers would permit a prostitute of his acquaintance to accompany him; this they did of course by another bribe; not satisfied, however, he still refused to go unless they gave him 6*l.* pocket-money; this also they did, and then he departed, and they now live in constant dread of his return.

The evidence of Mr. Turner, appended hereto, clearly shows that able-bodied pauperism is not unknown in Glamorganshire; to me it is perfectly clear, that nothing but the immense demand for labour, and the high wages, prevent its existence over the whole district.

Workhouses.

Many workhouses are rented in the county of Monmouth; in the parishes now forming the Monmouth Union, nearly 150*l.* is annually paid in rent for them, exclusive of course of cottages rented for the poor. In only one or two of these houses is there any attempt at a dietary or employment, in none classification, in the generality every kind of abuse. In Monythusloine poorhouse the contractor keeps a shop; different families have apartments in the house; the whole is filthy to the last degree. In one room was a woman who has had nine bastard children, the last confessedly born in the house; and from the time she had been resident there, doubtless many more.

The system is much the same in the Newport poorhouse, though no shop is kept; the inmates going in and out for work or pleasure, the whole being enlivened by a lunatic in rags, who was running about where he pleased.

In Coleford poorhouse I found an idiot, who had been there 48 years; during all this time, winter and summer, this poor wretch had had no other covering than a canvass shirt, no shoes even or stockings. At night he was, as the master expressed it, "ticed" or forced into an out-house, a place unfit even for an animal; a hole in the wall was the only window; there he slept in some damp straw on the bare ground, for there was not even a stone floor. The answer to my remonstrances was, "He does not feel cold;" an assertion which the appearance of the shivering wretch sufficiently disproved. Yet in this very place did I receive remonstrances from some well-meaning, but more interested persons, against the cruelty of removing the poor to a well-conducted establishment at Monmouth.

I should add, that on my representations the magistrates immediately caused the removal of this man to the Gloucester Lunatic Asylum.

Want of uniformity of management.

Want of uniformity in management is also much felt: one parish is overburdened with paupers, while its next neighbour has scarcely any. The parish of Llangibby has the reputation of being kind to the poor, its rates are consequently very high, and the next parish, where the poor are treated with more strictness, is comparatively free from the burthen.

The iron works and collieries too, while they create a constant demand for labour, are, in some respects, very injurious to the agricultural parishes, on which wives and young families are constantly thrown, while the father, who has deserted them, is earning 1*l.* 1*s.* a week at Merthyr or Tredegar; and I grieve to state that some magistrates have acted with such mistaken lenity in these cases when the offender has been apprehended, that there is no prospect of a decrease of the evil.

State of population

With regard to the state of the population of the iron works, I beg to refer to the accompanying evidence of Mr. Homfray, an iron master and magistrate.

All feeling of shame at having recourse to parochial relief has ceased to exist. On this subject, Major *Marriott*, a magistrate, and chairman of the Monmouth Union, whose activity and knowledge are very great, says, "The same causes have produced the same results with us as elsewhere; we form no exception. The system of settlement by hiring and service for so short a period of time, without the smallest reference to good conduct, broke one of the strongest links which ought to bind the labourer to his employer. The parish was looked to instead of the master, and the mutual attachment which ought to exist between parties so connected was never thought of. The idea of disgrace by an application for parochial relief has long ceased, but the vigorous adoption of a good workhouse system will have a most beneficial effect."

So the Rev. *T. B. Davies*, says: "Under the old system the quality of the labour was of no importance; the labourer had no disposition either to seek work or retain it; having once had a taste of the poor-rate, he lost all taste for work; there was no reluctance to apply for relief; but under the new system I have no doubt that many who are now receiving relief will shun it."

My own observation abundantly confirms these opinions. In Llantilio Cressenny I found persons receiving relief on account of their connexion with some considerable inhabitant. The mother of a farmer, who rents land to the amount of 200*l.* a year, is now receiving weekly

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pay. In Newport, the brother of an iron-founder, in affluent circumstances, is in a lunatic asylum at the parish expense; he is actually removed to Devizes because the pride of the family would be hurt were he nearer Newport. The widow of the deceased brother of a wealthy magistrate, with her child, who is a cripple, is also receiving weekly pay. It is needless, however, to multiply instances; it is sufficient to say that the old system has produced as much evil in this country as the nature of circumstances would allow, but that the amendment which has taken place within the last year or two is plainly owing to the increased demand for labour, and to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, which it is universally admitted has already assisted the parishes considerably, although, as I have stated above, the regulations of the Commissioners have been but partially introduced, and have as yet been in operation but a short time.

I now beg to submit the evidence which I have taken of several intelligent witnesses illustrative of the preceding statements.

Mr. *Harper*, assistant-overseer of Dixton, and contractor for Llantilio Cressenny, states: The effect of the old law upon the labouring classes here has been very bad. When they received their relief, as they generally did, in money, it was in nine cases out of ten spent in the beer-shops; to my own knowledge they have constantly gone with the money they had got from the parish officer in their hands to the beer-shop. I have seen the father of a family do this, and if asked why he spent his money in this way, the answer was, "that he would do what he liked with it, for that it was his own, and he would not save the parish, and if they did not like it, the whole family would come upon the parish."

With regard to their labour, unless they could earn as good or better wages than the independent labourer, they were seldom satisfied; and if the least offence were given, they would leave their employer and go to the overseers, whom they would compel to relieve or employ them.

With regard to the feeling of reluctance to apply for parish relief, I seldom or ever meet with it; if a feeling of that sort should remain in any one, there are always persons who will almost force him to apply, and in many instances will apply for him. There are also many who have been paupers from birth, and their families for generations, and these consider themselves as much entitled to relief as a landlord thinks himself entitled to the rents of his property.

The following evidence was given by *Samuel Homfray*, Esq.:—I conceive the general character of the population at the iron works here, as well as elsewhere, to be very improvident, and I think it is in some measure affected by the certainty of getting support from their parishes in case of sickness, accidents, &c. I ground this opinion upon the experience I have had, both as a master and as a magistrate. They do not consider it a degradation to apply for parochial relief in the cases alluded to, nor do they in distressed times when work is scarce and wages low; at these periods I have known the non-resident workmen apply in great numbers to get letters written to their parishes, stating their circumstances and number in family, so as to get a weekly allowance from their parish in addition to their earnings, and this practice would have continued had I not put a stop to it by determining to remove those who made application for relief if they could not maintain themselves.

Since a workhouse was built here, many improper objects of relief have been deterred from applying to the parish; and I have no doubt that a workhouse at a distance, and properly regulated, would have a still greater effect in deterring parties making application, and would in course of time make them more provident.

It is very difficult to get men to work on Monday, or even the Saturday evening, on account of drunkenness.

There are no beer-shops at Tredegar; the absence of them is owing to the restriction in our licences, but in a neighbouring parish there are several.

The miners and colliers are earning from 18*s.* to 20*s.* per week, and the men employed in the manufacturing department from 25*s.* to 30*s.* per week; and there is employment for all the boys as soon as they are able to do anything, even some so young as eight years old have work, and get 3*s.* per week; so that a family of five may earn in a manufacturing department about 40*s.* to 45*s.* per week, supposing only a part of them to work; and the families of the colliers and miners from 25*s.* to 35*s.* per week.

Mr. *Thomas Turner* states: I farm 1,400 acres in the parish of Tully; in many of the parishes in this part of Glamorganshire the system is very bad; able men will go to a magistrate, tell a lie, and swear to it, having made no exertions to find work; the parish is then ordered to pay 6*s.* a week to man and wife, and from 6*d.* to 10*d.* for each child; the parish then put the man on the roads, where he, perhaps, works about three hours a day, and the rest of the time he works on his own account; the surveyor pays him, but has no control whatever.

The fact is, that the farmers prefer thus paying indirectly to the men on the roads to employing them at proper wages on their farms.

In this way there is often not enough left for the old and infirm.

Mr. *Etheridge*, who has been contractor, and is assistant overseer at Newport, states: Able-bodied labourers out of employ so long that they have been under the necessity of applying for relief; are seldom, if ever, willing to work for less than their full wages, and in many cases not willing to work at all, unless at the same kind of employ they have been accustomed to; colliers and miners particularly so.

Persons receiving relief under such circumstances seldom will go further to seek for work; and if they find that the overseer cannot employ them, or obtain employment for them, they are idling upon the casual relief they can get for themselves and families.

Where

Where employment has been found at somewhat reduced wages, say 10*s.* per week instead of 12*s.*, I have always found paupers unwilling to remain or work so as to earn their wages, unless well looked after. I have tried the experiment (when I was contractor for the maintenance of the poor for six years) on a tolerably large scale, by renting land for spade culture.

I am satisfied, from experience, that a contractor or overseer having land or means of employment for able paupers, has the best tendency in the world to prevent imposition, and would be the cause of their retaining their employment elsewhere.

Carmarthenshire.

In this county I have visited about 25 parishes, which, with the town of Carmarthen, now form the Carmarthen Union; and the evidence I have collected amply proves that pauperism has made considerable progress; the present vicious system is rapidly producing, both in the farmers and the labouring classes, a state of feeling entirely analogous to that existing in the most deeply pauperized districts. The Union has not yet been in operation a sufficient length of time to produce any striking results.

In many parishes the farmers are in the habit of looking to the rate to make up the deficiency of wages; and I have several times heard the word "roundsman" used; large sums are paid for rents of able-bodied men;* relief too is in some parishes given to them regularly after the third child; the parish of Cynwyl, where there is a great deal of waste land, on which poor people have located themselves, was last winter relieving more than 50 able-bodied men and their families.

* *See* Evidence of Mr. H. Lewis, *below*.

Marriages are contracted at the earliest possible period, and yet illegitimate children are exceedingly numerous; the 25 parishes composing the Carmarthen Union are now supporting nearly 400 bastards.

Wages are about 9*s.* a week; but this is virtually higher than the same sum in England, because the poor use a great deal of barley bread.

In two or three parishes, where an active and intelligent gentleman has looked closely into the expenditure, but little abuse prevails; but in the great majority the system is as bad as possible. The parishes are generally large, poorhouses very scarce, if, indeed, that name can be given to a few ruinous cottages, where the poor support themselves, and as assistant overseers are very seldom appointed, of course imposition thrives; the parish of St. Ishmail, for example, is now relieving five able men who are at Merthyr, and in full work.

In Llanarthy I find a charge on the books of 9*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* to J. Evans, which the overseer told me was for dinners consumed at the time of passing the parish accounts.

For the state of the town of Carmarthen I must beg to refer to the evidence of Mr. Stacey; it would be difficult to say whether the collection or distribution of the rate is the more vicious.

The class of persons referred to, who support themselves by fishing in the summer, and are the whole winter on the parish, are so very unmanageable, that although the fishing of the river at Carmarthen belongs to the corporation, they are afraid to exercise their right, and a fearful catalogue of evils, such as cattle houghed, ricks burnt, &c., was given to me as the certain consequence of interfering with them.

I append some of the evidence which I have received as to the state of this county.

Evidence relating to Country Parishes.

Mr. *Henry Lewis*, Churchwarden of Llanstephan: My parish is in a very bad state; we send the able-bodied men to work on the roads; they do not nearly earn their pay. When I was surveyor, the stone cost the parish 5*s.* 6*d.* a load, drawing and breaking, before it was moved from the quarry; it might have been done for 1*s.*; we certainly paid them five times more than they earned.

We pay 90*l.* now in rent per annum; this is paid to farmers in the parish. It is in vain that we try to remedy the evil, for when there is a vestry they make common cause and all attend, so we are outvoted.

The able men apply to us for payment of rents, because their neighbours have it paid. A short time back, John Davy applied to me, saying, his was a very hard case; that the parish paid his neighbour's rent, who had only two children; whereas he was supporting five children, and paid his own rent.

We cannot refuse them at the vestry; and without a strong union, and the workhouse system, I am certain we shall never be able to make any change in the management.

John Morgan Howell, Esq., Abergwilly: I farm about 300 acres in this parish; I pay 60*l.* poor-rate. We have a vast number of bastards; a few years ago they cost us 500*l.* per annum. We pay 100*l.* in rents; a short time ago this was 250*l.* The fact is, that the magistrates here used to order relief without inquiry, and of course a person who gets 5*s.* by asking for it will come again.

At the corner of every lane there is a beer-shop, where the labourer will spend more than he can earn in a week. We have too a great number of reduced farmers receiving relief; their money generally goes to the beer-shop.

I suppose there must be either rate or wages for the poor; the misfortune is, that an enterprising farmer pays both.

Appendix (B.)

No. 13.
Report of
George Clive, Esq.

We are relieving a great many non-resident poor; this is a very heavy burthen; sometimes 40 *l.* or 50 *l.* is expended on a suspended order.

There is no sense of shame left, except among a few of the old people. The labourers marry very early, and in a year or two are on the parish.

Mr. *David Thomas*, Llanpumpsaint: I farm largely in this parish. The present system is very bad; we cannot get money for the old and infirm on account of incorrigible rogues who torment us. Then the young people rush headlong into matrimony; all look to the parish, and they are upon it as soon as they have a child.

EVIDENCE of *Edmund Hills Stacey*, Esq., Churchwarden of *St. Peters, Carmarthen*, during the Years 1833-34-35.

Question. WHAT is your opinion with regard to the collecting the rate in this parish?—Almost every house is rated, but from many nothing is levied; considerable sums are constantly unpaid; some say they cannot pay, others will not; the fact is, that the overseers cannot enforce the rate without offending, which they are unwilling to do. In the year 1834-35, Mr. James Phillips was returned in arrear 22 *l.*; this gentleman is a very large landholder, his share of the rate is about 100 *l.*, yet the account was passed.

In 1822 a committee was appointed for investigating the arrears of poor-rate; they reported that 1,486 *l.* was in arrear and might be levied; in 1832, 4,000 *l.* was in arrear; I then suggested at a parish meeting the propriety of appointing an assistant overseer, with a salary of 150 *l.* per annum. He was nominated and elected, but the magistrates refused to appoint him, hearing that the Poor Law Commissioners would shortly interfere.

Will you state your opinion as to the effect of the old system of poor laws on the labouring classes generally?—The system has been a premium upon pauperism; every kind of abuse has crept in. I think the majority of persons on our pay-list are able-bodied, most of them not only do not seek work, but will not accept it if it is given them; they must be compelled to work.

In the year 1835, a chaise-driver, who had been dismissed for drunkenness, applied for relief; he was offered work in breaking stones by measure, for three days in the week; his wife to receive 2 *s.* 6 *d.* besides his earnings. The overseer being afraid to go to him, I sent the constable to make this offer; he answered, that he would see us all d——d first. This man has never worked, and has received relief since.

A great evil here is, that young men without a trade take to fishing in the summer, and are on the parish the whole winter; they marry very early, frequently at the age of 20, and sometimes 18, from the following custom: A young man wanting to be married sends round circulars to his friends, who each promise to give him something. On the strength of this he buys furniture, frequently to a greater extent than the contribution (which is called "the bidding") will enable him to pay: even if there be any surplus, it is soon spent, and he is immediately on the parish with his wife and a child.

One of the classes who most indulge in idleness here are the shoemakers; full two-thirds of these occasionally trouble the parish for relief. There is a standing order not to apprentice any child to a shoemaker.

In your opinion, is there any reluctance to apply to the parish for relief?—There is no shame left whatever; relief is demanded as a right. Mr. Benjamin Jones, the partner of and acting for Mr. Evans, the printer of the Carmarthen Journal, was last year assaulted by a pauper (who was in a state of excessive intoxication), to whom relief was refused. I was present on two occasions when a body of the fishermen before mentioned broke into the vestry, to demand the reason why some of them had been dismissed from working on the roads.

Many men quit the town altogether, leaving their wives and children upon the parish. The wages of David Jones, a currier by trade, being reduced from 21 *s.* to 18 *s.* per week, he left his work and applied for relief; work on the road was offered him, he refused it, and made an application to the Central Board, which not being successful, he left the place altogether, and has never since contributed anything to the support of his wife and five children, who are on the parish.

In short, in every sense of the word, the old poor law has been most fatal to us; the lower classes are immoral and idle to the last degree. Any Saturday evening, between six and seven o'clock, I can find a dozen paupers drunk in the streets.

The poorhouse is now a little better managed than it has been, but there is still no classification, or provision for setting the inmates to work; there are rules, but the master does not enforce them; indeed many paupers are not maintained in it, but use it as a lodging-house. Twelve months ago it was used as a brothel by the prostitutes of the town.

There are other abuses too; in 1834 John Williams was overseer, he was a master carpenter, and proprietor of some houses, his father, however, was on the pay-list for 4 *s.* 6 *d.* a week; we caused the name to be struck off, but it subsequently reappeared on the list of another ward.

The medical man's bill is from 40 *l.* to 50 *l.*; many receive medical relief who would not otherwise apply to the parish. Many of these could pay and would, were it not for the facility of obtaining it at the parish expense, and there is not even any disgrace in this, for it is unknown.

Weekly wages are from 1 *s.* to 1 *s.* 4 *d.* a day; some of the women spin and knit, but this class is fast disappearing.

James

James Evans, Esq.—I have been many years a practising barrister in Carmarthen.

In my opinion the facility with which parish relief has been attainable by able-bodied labourers has had the effect of deteriorating the quality of their labour, and of rendering them in a great measure indifferent to the obtaining and retaining employment.

The investment of capital is certainly affected to a great extent, inasmuch as the improvident management here, has greatly increased the charges on rateable property, and a preference exists for investment in places where the charges are restricted by frugality, and checked by strict examination.

Relief has been so generally and indiscriminately supplied, as to have obliterated entirely the feeling of reluctance to apply for parish relief, which has certainly existed within my recollection.

Charles Brigstock, one of the Select Vestry.—I have acted as overseer for my father, I can state that there is no wish whatever to seek work, or to avoid application to the parish.

The fishermen and shoemakers are constantly applying to the parish for relief; there are a great number of idle drunken persons whom no one will employ; we always give them relief at the vestry to get rid of them. A man of the name of Rowlands, a very strong, able man, has cheated the parish in every way; in four days the overseer gave him 16*s.* in cash, he has repeatedly sent to the vestry that he would see them d——d before he would work; there is an order to give him 30*s.* to get rid of him, but he is holding out for 2*l.*

The paupers on the roads do nothing but talk all day.

Bastardy has, in my opinion, increased; no rich person is ever forced to pay.

The rate is very imperfectly collected; many rich persons are excused; many large houses are let for lodgings; the landlord will not pay, and the tenant is excused on account of poverty.

Much money also is lost by overseers not rating persons who have changed their residences.

A new survey, based on the rack-rent, is much needed; the present rating is no criterion; a late churchwarden remained in office nearly four years, during which time he reduced the survey nearly one half.

Job Jones.—I was overseer last year; the system here is terrible; great able men come and demand relief, and insult you if they do not obtain it. I have had whole families of children left in my shop by the parents.

We employ some men on the roads, but they do nothing; they do not earn one-third of the money paid to them.

Bastardy too, has increased; we have hardly an order made; the girls leave the child to the parish, and go and get double the wages as wet-nurses; of course as soon as they can have another child the better.

There is no parish in the kingdom where the new system will work as it will here; corruption has got to the highest pitch; the salaries of the officers to be appointed will be saved five times over.

David Davis, Esq., late Mayor of Carmarthen.—A great evil here is, that the churchwardens make orders upon the overseers as they please.

The fishermen will earn a guinea a week in the summer, and be on the parish all the winter; their earnings all go to the beer-shops.

Wages are about 14*d.* in the summer, and 1*s.* in the winter, per day; but the population here can live much more cheaply than in England; they consume nothing but barley bread.

Some time ago Mr. Stacey made the men break stone by measure; they immediately attacked the surveyor and broke the measure.

In my opinion the law of bastardy has made the women more careful.

I have no doubt the new system will work well here; we may save, I should think, half our expenditure.

Charles Wilson.—This man is an unwilling witness; he has been removed from the pay-list to the inspectorship of the stone-breakers, at 9*s.* per week; he says, "none of the men on the roads work more than six hours in summer, some only work three hours; they broke the measures because they found the ballast harder than the river gravel they were accustomed to break; they have not worked by measure since.

The parish pays Mrs. Williams 11*s.* a week for the keep of two horses, but they were so starved last winter, as to be quite incapable of work, we therefore pay 18*s.* a week cart-hire, and have paid 1*l.* 13*s.*"

Notwithstanding, however, the wretched state of poor law administration in the districts which I have visited, I feel bound, in conclusion, to express my conviction that the new system must, in this town and county, be triumphantly successful, and that its good effects will appear, not only in the gradual amelioration of the condition and habits of the lower classes, but that the burthens of the rate-payer will be immediately lightened to a great degree.

I have, &c.

(signed) *George Clive*,
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

To the Poor Law Commissioners.

Appendix (B.)

No. 14.
Report of
E. W. Head, Esq.

— No. 14. —

REPORT on the County of *Hereford*, by *Edmund Walker Head*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Gentlemen, Hereford, 1 June 1836.

The county of Hereford is perhaps the most purely agricultural district in England. No manufacture can be said to exist within its limits; and the present demand for labour is admitted by all to be so great, that, low as the rates appear when compared with those of the more pauperized part of England, it is difficult to say why their amount is so large as it actually is.

Unions declared.

In the six Unions which the Board has thought proper to declare on my recommendation, and which embrace the greater part of the county of Hereford, the population and average expenditure for the three years ending 25 March 1836, are as follows:

Ross	-	-	-	-	Population	12,655	-	Averages	£.	6,054
Ledbury	-	-	-	-	—	11,973	-	-	—	5,678
Weobley	-	-	-	-	—	6,938	-	-	—	3,813
Bromyard	-	-	-	-	—	11,940	-	-	—	4,815
Leominster	-	-	-	-	—	14,830	-	-	—	6,022
Hereford	-	-	-	-	—	23,073	-	-	—	10,352
						80,609				36,734

Thus giving an average of rather more than 9*s.* a head on the population, according to the census of 1831.

State of district.

On my arrival in the county I found a general impression prevailing that the management was so good, and the reduction already effected so great, that little advantage could be expected from union administration. The existence of any of the abuses prevalent in the eastern and central counties was universally and confidently denied; and I was told that the wages of labour were not here, as elsewhere, paid out of the poor-rates. The result of a very few days' inquiry was to show that wages were in substance, although not in appearance, augmented from parochial funds, and that the allowance for large families prevailed most extensively, inasmuch as able-bodied labourers throughout the county were accustomed to receive relief in one of the most objectionable forms—that of rent. The disadvantages of such payments have been already before the public in the Report of the Commission of Inquiry, and the Poor Law Commissioners have by their rules marked their disapprobation of a practice which, besides its other injurious consequences, tends entirely to obliterate all distinction between the pauper and the independent labourer. To such an extent has this last result been produced in Herefordshire, that I have found it difficult to convince the parish-officers that persons for whom rent is paid are in fact paupers. Their answer, on my pointing to such cases, has almost invariably been "they do not trouble us for anything, but we pay their rent." As one of the most active and intelligent of the guardians of the Ross Union said to me, "they seem to think it one of the rights of man to live rent-free." The universal idea has been that the parish is bound to find a house, and that the object of overseers is not to relieve destitution and succour helplessness, but to supply forethought, and supersede individual credit and respectability on the part of the whole population. In other districts some attempt has been usually made to conceal the object of such payments; the word "rent" has not appeared on the parish books; but in Herefordshire, as there is no consciousness of the evils of the system, so there has been no attempt at concealment, and rents, as a separate item to a large amount, usually occupy a conspicuous place in the pages of the overseers' accounts. It has followed from this practice that the landlord, who perhaps in vestry votes himself his own rent out of the rates, is not compelled to moderate his claims by the ability of the cottage occupant; his receipts are higher in amount, and at the same time more secure than those of any other owner; his property constantly escapes rating, and he is enabled to give his men lower wages on account of their relief from parochial funds. In the meantime the really industrious labourer, who pays the rent of his own cottage and relies on his own exertions, is saddled with a higher sum, from the influence which the practice has exercised on the rents of the whole district.

Payment of rents out of rates.

Sometimes the owner of the cottages rented by the parish is himself the parish-officer. In Thornbury, now included in the Bromyard Union, a few weeks before my arrival in the district, the overseer had taken some elderberries from the garden hedge of a cottage rented of him by the parish, against the will of the pauper tenant. The latter caused him to be summoned before the magistrates at Bromyard. I found that, in consequence of this proceeding, the following entry had been made in the parish books on the 25th of last March:

"Also it is agreed that we take Mr. Green's cottages at the usual rent, to commence from Lady-day 1836; and Mr. Green reserves to himself the produce of the hedges, elderberries growing thereon, for his sole use."

The small parish of Monkland expressed their wish not to be included in any Union, and their perfect satisfaction with their own management, yet I found that they were paying rent

rent for an able-bodied man who earns 10 *s.* a week as a wheelwright. In Saint Devereux again, rent is paid for a sawyer in full work, earning probably 12 *s.* a week, with two grown-up sons.

I was myself present at a board of guardians when a woman applied for additional relief under the following circumstances:—She was receiving 2 *s.* weekly pay; and although her husband had been absent a year, appeared with a child of six weeks old in her arms; a rent of 4 *l.* was paid for her in an adjoining parish, the cottage being one of four under the same roof, which belonged to the present overseer, and had been taken of him by the late officer. I may add, that common report asserted that the latter person was the father of her last child.

But the money expenditure in rent by no means represents the whole amount of relief given in this form. A great proportion of the parishes possess cottages of their own, which they suffer to be occupied rent-free. The parish of All Saints, Hereford, owns, among other property, five houses, left to the poor by a Mr. Treherne in 1683: in one of these has resided rent-free for 14 years, a man who keeps a grocer's and general shop, and whose mother occupied it before him. In the district now included in the Bromyard Union, the worth of the parish property, as returned by the officers themselves, exceeds 4,000 *l.* In the Ledbury Union it is still higher, and I may safely assert that their valuation is far below the truth. I need not dwell on the benefits which these districts would experience if this property, now devoted to the creation of pauperism, were invested in an efficient workhouse, and thus caused to assume the form of a real test of indigence, instead of remaining as an encouragement to dependence on parish funds.

The instances are innumerable in which parishes have, by their own negligence, lost property of this description, or have been involved in most expensive lawsuits, by suffering paupers to occupy it without acknowledgment for a long series of years. I was informed that in Woolhope it had more than once occurred that cottages, thus acquired by occupancy, had been sold to parties who had themselves ultimately become paupers, and claimed a settlement by virtue of the very property of which the parish had been originally defrauded. I mentioned these cases at a meeting at Ledbury, and two or three persons present exclaimed that they could point out similar instances.

In Much Birch the parish laid out a small sum of 6 *l.*, which had been left as a charitable bequest, as part of the cost of erecting a cottage. Into this cottage they put a woman named Mary Rook, who has lived there so long rent-free that they are unable to eject her. She has enclosed part of the waste round the house, and the parish continue to distribute 6 *s.* a Christmas as the interest of the principal which has been thus sunk.

The cottage of the Herefordshire labourer has generally a garden attached to it, and he not unfrequently makes a small quantity of cider from its produce. The prevalence of this beverage in the county has an important influence on the wages of labour. The money payment is low, because the farmer generally, in addition, supplies his men with two or three quarts of cider a day in winter, and still more in summer. A portion of the man's earnings are thus given in a form which contributes almost exclusively to his individual gratification. The labouring population in general are averse to commuting this for an additional sum in money, and the quantity of inferior cider which in abundant apple years is at the disposal of the farmer makes it a mode of remuneration convenient to the employer. The only good effect which I have ever heard of as a consequence of this system, is, that it has sometimes acted as an inducement to prefer independent labour to parish work on the roads, where no "drink" is given. In the northern parts of the county the wages of an able-bodied man average from 6 *s.* to 7 *s.* a week, with cider; in the southern districts they are somewhat higher, owing probably to the demand for men in the South Wales iron district, and to the fact that grain sells better in Ross market, from the proximity of a manufacturing county and the facility of transport. In the parts of the county where hops are grown the women and children add something to the earnings of the family by their wages in the picking, and I am informed that it is sometimes the practice for a labourer to pay the rent of his cottage in kind by engaging to cultivate a certain portion of hop ground. The apple harvest is also another source of profit to these branches of the family; but I find that there is a general complaint of the indisposition of the women to undertake field work as in other districts.

Parochial apprenticeship.

The same tendency to substitute the interference of the overseer for individual forethought, which has been the bane of the English poor laws, is visible in the mode adopted in the county of Hereford to provide for poor children. No sooner has a man, however able-bodied and well supplied with work, a son or daughter of nine years old, than the parish in many places feel themselves called on to relieve the father of all future care of the boy. The system of compulsory apprenticeship, with all its hardship and and all its evils, has prevailed in this part of England to a very great extent, and the subject appears to me of such importance, that I will venture to glance at its history and its effects.

It is perfectly clear that the statute of the 5th Elizabeth, c. 4, was intended solely for the benefit of the employer, and was framed for the purpose of supplying labour in a manner suited to the principles of that time. Any householder "having or using half a ploughland at the least in tillage,"* might, on the refusal of a person to become his apprentice, apply to a magistrate, who should send for the person so refusing, and if he thought him meet to serve, he might "commit him unto ward, there to remain until he be contented and will be bounden to serve as an apprentice." The 43d Eliz. 2. vested a discretionary power in the churchwardens and overseers, or the greater part of them, by the assent of any two justices,

* *See* Co. Litt. 69. a. on the meaning of ploughland.

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No. 14.
Report of
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justices, to bind "any such children as aforesaid to be apprentices where they shall see convenient, till such man-child shall come to the age of 24 years, and such woman-child to the age of 21 years or the time of her marriage." This statute evidently looked on compulsory binding, not as a means of finding servants for householders who wanted them, but as a subsidiary mode of maintaining the poor. It made it "discretionary in the parish officers to select those children whom they shall think their parents are not able to maintain." (Rex *v.* Crosse, Comb. 289; 1 Bott. 614.

Still it appears to have been a matter of doubt whether the persons to whom such children were to be bound were compellable to receive them, and the 8 & 9 W. 3, c. 30, was therefore passed, which enacted "that where any poor children shall be appointed to be bound apprentices pursuant to the said Act, the person or persons to whom they are so appointed to be bound shall receive and provide for them, according to the indenture signed and confirmed by the two justices of the peace, and also execute the other part of the said indenture; and if he or she shall refuse so to do, oath being made by one of the churchwardens or overseers of the poor before any two of the justices of the peace for the county, liberty or riding, he or she for every such offence shall forfeit the sum of 10*l.*, to be levied by distress, &c., allowing an appeal to the sessions."

The 18th George 3, c. 86, limited the age of binding to 21 for boys; the 20th George 3, c. 46, extends the power of compulsory binding to incorporated hundreds, and many other statutes have since modified the system, but the substance still remains as it was fixed by the 8 & 9 W. 3. The power of compulsory binding is still a mode of taxing the inhabitants and occupiers in a form distinct from poor-rates, but for the same end and object. I shall, as shortly as possible, proceed to consider the effects of this system as put in force in Herefordshire, first, as to its pressure as a tax, and secondly, as to its effects on the children themselves, and the feelings which it tends to produce on their part and that of their parents towards their masters and the parish. In the first place, it must be observed that the payment of the 10*l.* does not legally exempt the party who forfeits that sum from being compelled to take a second apprentice, or pay a second penalty. (1 Burn, 205.) The person who refuses to accept the parish apprentice is styled "an offender," and it is obvious that the sum paid is not a composition for a burthen of another kind, but a fine exacted by the law. Still in effect it has become a means of avoiding the apprentice, and it sometimes happens that parishes are enabled to obtain a considerable sum by this means, especially if the boy or girl assigned to a householder is known to be idle or mischievous. The worse the character of the child, the more powerful instrument for extracting money is he in the hands of a skilful overseer. The following is an extract from a letter on the subject from a Herefordshire magistrate, which describes a case of this kind. The pauper in question was a bastard girl. "She is now about 20 years of age; when she was between 10 and 11 years of age she was placed apprentice by the parish upon Mr. ——, who paid the fine of 10*l.* to the overseer, who allowed the person who had nursed the child 1*s.* per week for her maintenance. She was a year or two afterwards placed apprentice by the parish upon Captain ——, who also paid the fine of 10*l.* to the parish for her, and she continued to receive from the parish 1*s.* per week, She was within a year or two placed apprentice upon the Rev. Mr. ——, the vicar, upon his coming into the parish. She was then about 15, and Mr. —— paid her 1*s.* a week until she was 17 years of age, but did not pay any fine as she was so nearly out of her time. She has since occasionally received parish relief, being in bad health and a cripple, and she now receives 1*s.* 6*d.* per week in consequence of extreme ill-health, she being in the last stage of a consumption."

The putting this unfortunate girl on the vicar on his coming into the parish is very characteristic of the system. Another gentleman in the same neighbourhood, a rate-payer in a large parish in Herefordshire, where the above case occurred, writes as follows:—

"My attention was first called to it (the system of apprenticing) on the establishment of the select vestry in the parish in the year 1820. On inquiry I found the officers were in the habit of selecting the children to be put out, and then making out a list of parishioners liable to take them, invariably inserting the names of all new comers, and passing over many who had been resident for years, and who held extensive occupations in the parish. Those who were likely to object to an apprentice generally were omitted, and those whom it would have been too barefaced to have passed over, and who were in the secret, attended and chose themselves those children who were most desirable from their state of health and respectability of parentage. The rest were saddled upon those who did know better, or who had not courage to resist the imposition. If the master accepted the apprentice he received with him from the parish fund 1*l.*, otherwise he paid a fine of 10*l.* to the officers, which was applied in aid of the poor-rate, and the child was fixed on some other parishioner. It happened to me to remonstrate against the system altogether, and more particularly against the partial manner in which it was executed; and I remember getting this reply from two brother vestrymen, 'Is your name on the list? if not, what reason have you to complain?'"

In a communication from Chepstow the practice is thus described:—

"When I was overseer in 1818, the practice was, and had been time out of memory, to apprentice the children from nine years and upwards to the persons who came last to reside in the parish, more particularly so if they were strangers; and, in some instances, upon gentlemen's servants, if they were married, and their wives happened to keep a small house or lodged in the town. To such a course of practice I objected, and obtained the consent of the magistrates to my plan. I then registered all the inhabitants in a book, according to the annexed form, and from that list or register we (the officers and the parishioners at

a parish meeting properly convened) allotted the children upon the longest resident if eligible.

"The system did not please for some time, because there was in the parish a number (from 60 to 100) of wealthy and respectable inhabitants, who had resided in the parish from 40 to 60 years, and had always found means to avoid a parish apprentice, by ascertaining when apprentices were to be placed out, and attending such meeting either by themselves or their friends, and getting the children put upon the new comers."

The mode in which the tax of an apprentice presses on the persons on whom the child is imposed is completely analogous to the action of a labour-rate. Let us suppose that the apprentice represents a burthen of 10*l.* It is clear that if this burthen is ever cast on a holder whose proportion of property in the parish would not warrant so high a payment, injustice is committed. If the child were to be put out to a trade with a money premium, that premium paid from the rates would at least have been levied from the different payers, in the supposed proportion of their productive property in the parish. But let us for a moment imagine that a portion of the poor-rate was obliged to be paid in a coin of no lower denomination than 10*l.* and no change given. This would manifestly be a mere mode of oppressing the small holder. The apprentice is in like manner a unit which cannot be divided; the rate-payer is asked for 10*l.*; be his property what it may, he pays no more, and he cannot pay less. In some parishes, indeed, they allot, as in justice bound, more apprentices to the large holders, but rarely in proportion to the difference of the assessment, and the constant practice is to go down the list to a certain point, and then begin again. But the inequality does not merely arise from the mode of distribution. The real burthen to the person who takes the apprentice is the difference between the cost of the child's clothing and maintenance (I say nothing here of the personal annoyance from their mischievous habits, &c.), and the profits of his labour. To the farmer of 300 or 400 acres this is in reality nothing. The boy, bad as apprentices usually are, does enough to cover the cost of his keep, which, in such an establishment, is trifling. The small holder, on the other hand, who cannot maintain the lad with the same facility, is also unable to provide him with constant employment; and, in some cases, such an inmate is a source of pure loss.

The first testimony which I shall quote is that of one of the largest holders in the parish of Llangaran, in the south of Herefordshire. Differing as this correspondent does from most others as to the effect on the children themselves, he readily admits the injustice to the small rate-payers:

"Agreeable to your request, I have sent you my opinion respecting placing out parish apprentices. It is formed after observations of the last 20 years, having during that period in the parish of Llangaran acted as nearly as could be up to the Act of Parliament for that purpose. The plan adopted was to place out all children chargeable to the said parish, and the eldest of every family consisting of four, as soon as he or she should attain the age of 10 years, whether chargeable or not. By such means large families were, in a great measure, prevented being any further burthen, and I think it quite impossible for the children of agricultural labourers to be so well brought up in any other way. But it bears so very unequally on the rate-payers, and certainly to enforce the said Act was attended with more unpleasantness than all the duties the officers of the said parish had to contend with. It was the wish, and I think I may say, had the poor laws undergone no alterations, it was the intention, of the said parish not to have acted on so unequal and unjust a measure any longer."

The practice in this parish has been to begin with the largest farmers, and to put one apprentice to every house or land down to 30*l.* a year real value. They then began again. But here, as elsewhere, the amount of visible property in the parish, and the principles of assessment, as established in Sir Anthony Earby's case, and in that of Rex *v.* St. John's Moddermarket, were entirely overlooked. The tax of apprenticeship, auxiliary to the rates, and based on the same statute, (for the 5th of Elizabeth is, as has been shown, entirely different in its object) has often been imposed on principles diametrically opposed to those recognised in the cases just referred to. With what injustice the following instances will show. The first is one of a clergyman, who resides in the parish of which I have just spoken, Llangaran, and who thus describes his own position:

"In March 1834 I took a small cottage in this parish (Llangaran), for the convenience of its situation, being equidistant, or nearly so, from Marstow and Pencoyd, two small perpetual curacies, of which I do the duty.

"In April 1835 I was informed that the select vestry had put me an apprentice, and that the day of appeal was fixed for Tuesday, April 14. I attended, and showed the magistrates in petty sessions that there were people in the parish who stood at a higher rent, and held more land, who still had no apprentice. It was to no purpose; the majority decided that I ought to take one. They told me also that an appeal to the quarter sessions was open to me. I did not avail myself of it."

It should be added, that the cottage which the clergyman, whose words I have just quoted, held, was rented at 30*l.*, and had four acres of land attached to it. The real principle on which this gentleman was selected by the parish, and I believe, from what I have learned from the clerk to the petty sessions, and from himself, the grounds on which some of the magistrates sanctioned the imposition of an apprentice on him, were, "that Mr. —— was able to keep a servant, and therefore might as well take a parish apprentice;" thus making his expenditure, not his visible property in the parish, the criterion of the burthen

to be put on him, an expenditure arising, it may be, from money in the funds, or from property already rated in some other district; and assuming, at the same time, that because a gentleman might possess the means to employ a steady and active domestic servant, therefore "he might as well take" a mischievous boy, 10 years old, whose activity was not stimulated by wages, nor his steadiness enforced by the penalty of dismissal. An equally instructive case occurred in the north of the county; but the magistrates, after taking counsel's opinion upon it, which of course only told them that they had a discretionary power, refused to compel the reception of the apprentice. The case was thus stated to Mr. Serjeant Russell:

"————, the overseers of the poor of the parish of Yarpole, have put an apprentice on Mr. ——, a gentleman of considerable estate, and residing in the adjoining parish of Orleton. He occupies one piece of land in the parish of Yarpole, which is rated at 5 *l.* per annum to the relief of the poor, but which probably could be let for 8 *l.* or 10 *l.*; it is, however, rated fairly with the other property in the parish."

Here it is clear that the parish could only pretend to saddle this individual with an apprentice on account of his estate in Orleton; that in Yarpole was merely the excuse; and the tax would thus have been laid on property already rated. The difficulty is stated by Lord Kenyon in Rex *v.* Clapp (*see* 1 Burn, 204); and the person in question was saved by the only remedy there suggested, the discretion of the justices.

Lord Ashburton was rated for Rudhall House, near Ross, in three parishes. The officers of Weston made an attempt to put an apprentice on his lordship for the one-third which stands in their parish, his rate being 3*s.* 9*d.*, at 6*d.* in the pound. The fear of resistance seems alone to have deterred them from persevering. A tailor in the same parish, whose payment to each rate was only 1*s.* 6*d.*, was less fortunate. He was a poor man, with a family; and the reason given for saddling him with this enormous burthen was, "that by taking apprentices, he, and such like tradespeople, brought a parishioner, who might be burdensome to the rate-payers." Another case of hardship was that of a large farmer in the parish of Ross, who paid heavy parochial taxes in that parish, but whose rate in Weston was only 2*s.* 6*d*, and who had an apprentice assigned to him. The present curate of the latter parish, when occupying merely a cottage and garden, was placed in the same predicament, of either taking the apprentice or paying 10 *l.*

Enough has probably been said to prove the hardship of the system, as a mode of taxation. The other point which it is necessary to advert to is the effect on the children bound, and on their parents. It is perhaps right to observe, that in very many parishes no indentures are executed; but from a consciousness that compulsion may be used the rate-payers take the children, and treat them in every respect as apprentices, with the one exception (which is most important), that they do not of course keep them to the age of 21. Nothing can show the vice of compulsory binding more than its voluntary abandonment in so many instances. If the legal system is good, why desert it, and attempt to attain the same object in another mode? It must be observed, too, that the great objection is to keeping the apprentice during those years when his labour ought to be most profitable. The *à priori* view would be, that the boys' labour, from 17 to 20, would be the most valuable part of his whole service but the temper and tone of feeling produced in the apprentice by compulsory service, at this age, the contrast of his own degraded position with that of his equals earning wages, all this seems, in practice, to outweigh the increase of his physical powers, and his superior skill as a workman. In the words of the overseer of Much Birch, "If bound when they come to be biggish, they want to be getting some wages, and be getting dissatisfied." In one district compulsory binding has been nearly abolished, by the mere refusal of the magistrates to bind till 17 instead of 21. This objection on the part of the farmers will be found stated in the answer of Mr. Whiting, assistant overseer of Weobley, to the queries of the Commissioners. The following is an extract from a letter of a magistrate for Shropshire:

"I cannot say that any particular case of hardship under the apprentice laws has come under my observation, but I thoroughly dislike the system, the effect of which, in nine cases out of ten, is, that the young slave (for an apprentice is nothing else) is so disgusted by the indifference and neglect and unkindness which he experiences in the earlier years of his service, that he takes the first opportunity of escaping at all risks from his master, as soon as he finds his labour is a valuable commodity, and if brought back forcibly to his work, omits few occasions of injuring his property by neglect, if not by positive inroad."

The following examination of Howel Evans, assistant overseer for the parish of Builth, in the county of Brecknock, may serve to illustrate the system in another point of view.

"There is a charity by which children are apprenticed in the parish of Builth and others in the neighbourhood: it is called the Boughrood or Colwyn Charity. They are bound to some one, who goes with them to the magistrates, and is approved by them. The indentures are made out to him. There is then paid a premium of 4 *l.* (he believes). The master makes a private agreement with the boy's parents, by which he is to have a portion of the premium, 1 *l.* or 2 *l.*, and they take the remainder. They are to feed and clothe the boy, and he goes and works with the master during the day. Sometimes the child does not work at all with the nominal master. At the end of four years the child receives 2 *l.* more, and the nominal master goes and certifies that he has served his apprenticeship. Knows one case at present where the child was thus apprenticed to a glazier: the parents are on the parish, and receive additional relief because they have to maintain this lad."

An intelligent guardian of the Weobley Union states, that the "binding system" has been

been for some time discontinued in his parish, "owing to the injurious effect it had in this agricultural district with boys and girls. The former, from not being generally under a master or superintendent's eye (as in trade), became idle, slovenly and dissolute, little caring how his time was consumed, and invariably became a curse to himself as well as his master before the expiration of his indentures. The same evil was generally attendant on girls, with this addition, that they were more easily led astray than hired servants; and in my opinion to the system of binding girls might be attributed, in a great degree, the increase of bastardy which has of late taken place."

The last point mentioned by this correspondent is one of great importance; and in conversation with other farmers who are familiar with the system, the same statement has been made to me. It would be easy to augment the bulk of evidence on all the points above referred to, or to dwell at equal length on the bad feeling generated in the minds of the parents, who, while they claim as a right that the parish should relieve them of their child, and should render it a matter of indifference to the father and mother whether a lad is well or ill brought up, whether they exert themselves or not to procure him a place, still look with suspicion and dislike on the farmer into whose hands he is consigned, without a prospect of bettering his lot by his own exertions, or without any motive to perfect himself in labour which requires skill. The Board will find all these points stated in two communications which I enclose, and which I have refrained from quoting because I considered them too valuable to mutilate. They are both from clergymen deeply interested in the welfare of the lower classes, and intimately acquainted with their habits and feelings.

I may perhaps venture, before closing this Report, to advert to two subjects to which my attention has been called by facts brought under my notice during my examination of this district. The first is, that of rating. The following circumstances seem to me to illustrate forcibly the utter impossibility of any efficient control over parish expenditure as long as the system of rating continues in its present anomalous state. Rating.

One of the principal rate-payers in a small parish of the Ross Union, on my first inquiry into the state of pauperism in that neighbourhood, staid behind the other parish officers and addressed me to the following effect: "I wished, sir, to ask you respecting one thing; the magistrates last time struck out of our book the allowance to the overseers, and we think it very hard." I assured the man, of course, that the magistrates were only acting in pursuance of the law. "Well, sir, I am sensible of that," he replied, "but we could easily make all straight if we rated them higher as did not take the office." I suggested that the rate would be appealed against, but he said that they were but few, and could all agree among themselves. If it be said that in such a case, if the payers are satisfied, no one else has any right to complain, I can only answer, first, that this is decidedly not the view which the law takes of the subject; and secondly, that I believe there is no abuse which will not be found to have been thus sanctioned by the rate-payers themselves. I am besides convinced that the small holders, who perhaps rarely attend vestries, and still more rarely raise their voices there, are liable to considerable oppression by any system thus free from the control of the law. What the bad feeling and suspicion is which the present plan of rating may produce is well shown in the parish of Stoke Lacy. Two or three years ago the clergyman threatened to appeal against the rate. The result was, that a vestry meeting was held, which five persons attended, and four of the largest holders were appointed to revalue the parish, for the purpose of a new rate. Two of these four were also two of the five who signed the order at the meeting. They executed their task, and the result was, that whilst the rate of almost every small holder was raised, that of the four valuers and some few others was considerably diminished. Now, I am far from asserting that the rate in question is unfair; on the contrary, I well know that some of the magistrates in the neighbourhood were of opinion at the time that it was equal; but I am at the same time aware that the discontent has not subsided, and that though they shrink from the expense of an appeal, the small holders consider themselves as unfairly treated. If the rate be unfair, the evil is manifestly very great; if it be fair, all we can say is, that from the mode in which the valuation was made injustice is wrongfully suspected, and the worst feelings needlessly engendered.

The other point to which I was anxious to allude is a successful instance of the voluntary application of a test for real indigence in the case of vagrants. It is due to the parishes of the city of Hereford to say, that they have in a limited degree put in force some of the main principles of the Poor Law Amendment Act, in recognising as the only claim to relief destitution on the part of the applicant, and in giving that relief in the form of bare necessaries. Before the year 1831 the mayor for the time being was in the habit of sending orders to the overseer of the parish in which he resided for relief in money to vagrants. The increase of the burthen thus cast on the city parishes induced the parish officers, in 1831, to meet and adopt certain resolutions; in fact, to form an Union for this specific object. They hired a house and placed it under the superintendence of an officer at a regular salary, who was to perambulate the city night and morning, and take all vagrants into his charge. All persons thus conveyed to the vagrant house, or who applied for relief, were searched, and if more than sufficient to pay for their own lodging and food was found on them, they were directed to a lodging-house and conducted out of the city the next morning; if, on the other hand, they were destitute, a portion of bread, at first to the value of 1 ½ *d.*, afterwards to that of 1 *d.*, was given them at night; they were lodged in the house, the same quantity of food allowed in the morning, and they were sent on their road. At the end of the first year the committee took a smaller house, and the effect of the system Vagrancy.

Appendix (B.)

No. 14.
Report of
E. W. Head, Esq.

may be judged of by the following statement of the vagrants relieved during the last five years, which I have drawn up from the books of the establishment.

From 6 July 1831 to 25 June 1832, money expended £.	92	–	4	Number relieved	1,204
From 25 June 1832 to 25 June 1833 - - — - -	56	14	11	- - — - -	604
From 25 June 1833 to 25 June 1834 - - — - -	45	11	–	- - — - -	598
From 25 June 1834 to 6 June 1835 - - — - -	46	12	11	- - — - -	484
From 6 June 1835 to 18 April 1836 - - — - -	40	14	6	- - — - -	298

I have thus, Gentlemen, attempted to give a slight outline of the principal features of pauperism which distinguish the district allotted to me. I should, perhaps, add, that there is hardly a workhouse in the county of Hereford. The city, with a population of 10,000 persons, does not possess accommodation for more than 50 paupers. Of my own proceedings I can say little; all the Unions declared on my recommendation are too recent to allow of my referring to any results of their operation.

It only remains for me to state, that I have experienced no interruption, and have met with no obstacles in the discharge of my duties. The magistrates and gentry have co-operated with me in carrying into effect the regulations of the Commissioners; and more especially is the country at large indebted to those gentlemen who, by undertaking the troublesome duties of chairmen and vice-chairmen, have sacrificed their own leisure and ease to the public good, with a zeal and readiness which promises the best results.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

E. W. Head,
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

— No. 15. —

REPORT on the Effect of the Poor Law Amendment Act in the County of *Northampton*, and part of *Warwickshire*, by *Richard Earle*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.—[Witha Supplement.]

No. 15.
Report of
Richard Earle, Esq.

Gentlemen, Leamington, 25 June 1836.

At this period last year I was required to report on the progress which had been made in my district in carrying into effect the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; but I was unable to make any material contribution to the Appendix to the First Annual Report of the Poor Law Commissioners.

The time which had then elapsed since my appointment had only permitted me to make those initiatory arrangements necessary for the introduction of the new system, and was not sufficient to allow of the developement of any results. So now, for a similar reason, it is my purpose to confine my report almost entirely to Northamptonshire, the only part of my district in which the administration of relief passed from the overseers to the several boards of guardians previously to the commencement of the present year.

Unions formed.

In Warwickshire 11 Unions, comprehending almost the entire county, have indeed been declared; but it would be injudicious at present to speak of any results perceptible there.

The county of Northampton, with the addition of a few parishes in the adjoining counties, is divided into 12 Unions.

The expenditure of the poor-rates is now under the control of 12 boards of guardians; and the welfare and moral condition of the poor of a district, comprehending 160,000 persons, is entrusted to the guardianship of 12 incorporated bodies, instead of being left to the ignorant, capricious, and often corrupt management of 327 parish vestries, and their assistant overseers.

Operation of the new machinery.

The first consideration which invites attention is, whether the transference of the power of ordering relief from the parish vestry to a board of guardians, and the execution of orders for relief from the overseer to the relieving officer, has proved beneficial, or, in other words, whether the new machinery has answered the ends for which it was designed.

In few instances have the parishes been slow in returning a sufficiently qualified guardian to represent them. Usually the guardians have been selected in consequence of their superior intelligence, habits of business, or, at least, from their station in the parish.

Impressed with the importance of the duties attached to their office, they have generally brought to the execution of them a diligence quite commensurate with the task devolving on them, a determination to mitigate the evils of pauperism, prudence to avoid the unnecessary excitement of evil passions in one class of paupers, and discernment to prevent the infliction of increased hardship on another.

Had not the guardians been thus qualified for their office, the results, of which I shall hereafter speak, could not have been produced, and therefore, while I acknowledge, in the highest degree, the value of their services, I do not enlarge on the manner in which the business of the new boards of guardians is transacted, the patient attention with which the pauper cases are investigated, the increasing reliance on sound principles evinced by their decisions, or the good sense and prudence with which they manage their general affairs.

Major Cartwright, who presides over the Brackley board, speaking of the superior efficiency of the board of guardians, thus expresses himself: " Much is owing to the attention

tion and unanimity of the board of guardians, than whom a more respectable court could not be found, nor one more anxious to relieve the necessitous and destitute, or more firm with the indolent and imposing. The advantages from the constitution of the board are clearly developed in any case where a guardian may be prejudiced in favour of a parishioner, which frequently happens, and is immediately corrected by the body: indeed, in going through the pauper lists of the different parishes, the old idea occurred to me of the neighbour being considered a better judge of what timber should be cut on an estate than the owner himself."

The addition to these boards, from the power given to all magistrates to act as *ex-officio* guardians, in my opinion has been of paramount importance. I am bound to express the satisfaction which I have derived from the active co-operation of many of the magistrates, especially those who have consented to preside over the several boards in Northamptonshire; and I believe that satisfaction is shared by many of the unofficial members of the boards; and if their services have been valuable to those with whom they have acted, they in their turn will derive advantages from co-operating with the former, which will well reward them for their exertions.

Armed with no controlling power, their influence is derived from, and in proportion to, their moral worth, their judgment, and their capacity for business. This influence is more readily acknowledged, and more beneficially exerted, than when they sat as judges to hear appeals against the very same parties with whom they have now only a co-ordinate jurisdiction; and I do not think I am rash in anticipating that wherever the bonds which unite landlords and tenants have been, from past causes, loosened, the association of the two classes at the several boards of guardians throughout the country will tend much to re-establish that connexion which, for the advantage of both, should ever subsist between them.

The attendance of the guardians at the weekly as well as extraordinary meetings has been surprisingly good. The novelty of the occupation has, no doubt, excited the zeal of some, and the useful exertions of others may cease after a time; but on the other hand, many who had, from an apprehension of the great demand upon their time, and through the fear of other consequences, declined to accept the office the first year are now supplying the places of others who have retired. To throw some light upon this point, I have prepared, from returns procured from the clerks, a table showing the number of guardians in each of the twelve Unions; the average number who have attended the meetings; and the number of elected guardians, who having served from the first formation of the Union, have continued their services since the 30th of March last.

NAME OF UNION.	Number of Ex-officio Guardians.	Number of Elected Guardians.	Average of Attendance at each Meeting.	Number of Guardians serving for Second Year.
1. Potterspury - - - -	4	18	12	12
2. Towcester - - - - -	6	31	17	27
3. Brackley - - - - -	11	33	19	30
4. Brixworth - - - - -	3	38	18	27
5. Hardingstone - - - -	4	22	12	14
6. Wellingborough - - - -	5	36	20	20
7. Northampton - - - -	2	31	21	25
8. Kettering - - - - -	6	33	29	17
9. Daventry - - - - -	7	34	19	29
10. Thrapston - - - - -	2	30	19	18
11. Oundle - - - - -	4	40	17	31
12. Peterborough - - - -	8	45	27	39
Totals - -	62	391	230	280

It is satisfactory to observe from this table, that whatever the obloquy at first incurred, or the demand upon their time may have been, it has not deterred 280 out of 391, or three out of four, from continuing in office a second year.

Workhouses.

Before I proceed further, I shall remark that the consequences which have followed the introduction of the new system into Northamptonshire have been effected without the aid of efficient and well-disciplined workhouses. In none of the Unions have the guardians as yet had that important engine in full operation. Still they have used the old workhouses with some effect, and from the manner in which the offer of them has been received by the able-bodied labourers, the guardians have gained experience and confidence which will profit them when the completion of the workhouses now erecting shall enable them to confine out-door relief within very narrow limits.

When I had formed the whole of the county into 12 Unions, I thought it probable that six, or, at most, eight, new workhouses would be built.

The guardians, however, of 10 out of 12 boards have decided upon rejecting the use of the old houses, and have purchased sites, and entered into contracts for the erection of new buildings. To question the prudence of their decision would be, in most of the instances,

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to condemn economy, for the determination to build, instead of to repair and enlarge, has never been taken, except after a close examination of the comparative costs of the two methods of procuring what all pronounced to be indispensable.

The experience of my colleagues I dare say will coincide with my own on this point, that the Assistant Commissioners generally have found more difficulty in inducing guardians to be moderate in the designs for their new houses than in encouraging them to incur the necessary expense. This promptness in a matter which at first occasioned alarm to most rate-payers, has been caused by a conviction of the necessity of procuring an ample and well-arranged workhouse, next by the lightness of the charge upon each parish, and, lastly, by the very trifling demand which, in consequence of the method of raising the funds, will have to be made upon each individual rate-payer. In many instances the means of meeting the contributions arising from the sale of old workhouses and unproductive parochial property are so considerable as to leave the contributors at perfect ease on a point in which they are apt to be particularly sensitive.

But while the proceedings of the guardians, in relation to their workhouses, can be defended on the score of economy, advantages of much higher import ought to be brought before the view of those who deplore the appearance of the numerous prison-workhouses, as they are pleased to denominate them. I would remind those who really feel for the poor, that they may, consistently with such feelings, regard these establishments with satisfaction; that for every new workhouse which is built, many abodes of wretchedness will disappear; that instead af almost innumerable filthy receptacles of old age and infirmity, we shall have a few healthful abodes for aged destitution; that instead of the sadly instructive schools (and such have for years disgraced many of our villages) for youthful indolence and depravity, we shall see in each district a seminary where industry may be promoted, and youthful vice repressed; and thus, since the pauper generally acquires his claim on the parish in his infancy, if not by inheritance, one of the most prolific sources of pauperism will be eradicated. In Northamptonshire alone upwards of 60 poorhouses will be superseded by thirteen well-arranged, commodious and healthy establishments; and it is not very likely that a pauper boy, 11 years old, will ever be able to commit, while an inmate of a workhouse, the offence of horse-stealing, which was a case that actually occurred last year in the parish of Southam.

The guardians throughout Northamptonshire, as I have already observed, being without the means of testing the reality of the claims of the paupers, which a workhouse so readily supplies, have resorted to various temporary experiments, and their success has been the greatest wherever the relief afforded has most nearly resembled that which is given in a workhouse. In the Hardingstone Union, for instance, employment with the spade was offered to the pauper labourers of Yardley Hastings. The field on which they were to work was a two hours' walk from their houses. They were required in winter to be there at nine o'clock in the morning and were permitted to return at three; and on condition of their working five or six hours, sufficient sustenance was given them from the workhouse, and food for their families was at the close of each day supplied to them. Few accepted assistance from the parish on these terms, and most of the pauper labourers soon discovered that their parish was likely to be a harder task-master than they had been accustomed to find it.

Out-door employments of paupers.

Many cases, however, constantly occur with which the guardians find it impossible to deal successfully, so long as they have not a workhouse to offer, and the astonishing results already produced will, I am persuaded, be followed by still further reductions, and the number of paupers will continue to diminish when the workhouse system is really in operation.

Meanwhile I have felt it my duty by every means and on all occasions to impress the guardians with the importance of uniformly adhering to sound principles in administering relief to whatever class the pauper may belong, reminding them that their decisions should be calculated to produce a conviction in the able-bodied classes that the time will arrive when, save in cases of sickness or accident, all out-door relief will be refused to them.

To satisfy myself of the progress which each Union has made towards this consummation, I have lately required the clerks to reply to certain inquiries relating to the system of out-door relief observed by their respective boards, and I shall now endeavour to condense the answers I have received.

Payment of rents.

The payment of rents for able-bodied males has, in compliance with the Commissioners' orders, entirely ceased in every part of North Hants, and this has been done without my hearing of any ejectments being served on the tenants of the cottages which for years have been rented by parishes. The payment of rents has also, by my advice, been enjoined on other classes of paupers: the relation by landlord and tenant, which, by experience, we know can scarcely exist between a pauper and an overseer, is one of those ties which link society together; and it is therefore important to impose on a pauper of any description the obligations arising from such relation, and thus promote respect to superiors and decent behaviour.

Relief in aid of wages.

The next evil which has been most successfully treated is that of allowing men with large families relief in aid of wages.

It was more prevalent in some parts of the county than in others; and consequently I find that it has not entirely ceased in those districts where the cases were most numerous, and that in some, but I believe only in very extraordinary instances, the guardians have availed themselves of the first rule of the Commissioners respecting out-door relief, and have continued a portion of the allowance in bread. Still it is evident from the following return that the practice is nearly at an end.

Replies

Replies from the under-mentioned Unions as to the number of cases still continuing of allowances in aid of wages to men with large families:—Brackley, Peterborough, Brixworth, Hardingstone and Daventry, "none;" Potterspury and Towcester, each "one;" Northampton, "five;" Kettering, "12;" Wellingborough, Thrapston and Oundle, "very few."

In no Union has any new case of this description been admitted.

In the parishes comprised in the Brixworth and Daventry Unions at the period of my forming them the cases of this description were most numerous; in Long Buckby no less than 30 names of able-bodied male paupers appeared in the weekly list, most of whom urged this plea for the relief they received.

Results of the amended poor law system.

In reporting upon the results which have flowed from the introduction of the amended poor law into North Hants, I had determined on not making myself a witness in the case, but that credible proof might not be wanting, I addressed a few queries to the several boards, in order to extract from the combined observation, experience and intelligence of the whole body of individuals engaged in the execution of the new law, their opinion of its effect on the social condition of the poor. The replies having undergone discussion at the boards, received the signature of the chairman. I give such as appear to be most important, and wishing them to be taken only at their real value, I have used the exact words of the answers wherever I have found it practicable to do so.

To the inquiry, "Has there been any increase of crime, or petty depredations, which can fairly be ascribed to the increased difficulty with which the able-bodied classes obtain relief?" The guardians have uniformly declared that there has been none.

From the Potterspury Union their reply, instead of being confined to a simple negative, is in these words: "There is less crime since the able-bodied classes, being driven from the book to their own resources, devote their time to work, instead of planning and committing petty depredations."

Few of the answers relating to the effect on the offence of poaching are either conclusive or very important. Six import that there is no perceptible effect upon poaching.

But from Hardingstone the answer is, "Poaching is not so prevalent, and I think some good has been produced by the change of system having obliged the persons to gain a living by their own labour, instead of being upon the roads in the day, and poaching and drinking at nights."

From Potterspury, "Poaching has greatly decreased."

As to the effect on beer-houses, I learn from five Unions that there is none apparent at present, but the following replies are very satisfactory:

Hardingstone.—"Beer-houses are very much improved."

Wellingborough.—"The beer-houses are not quite so much frequented."

Potterspury.—"There is less parish money spent in beer-houses, which causes many of the keepers of them bitterly to inveigh against the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act."

Oundle.—"Less of the labourer's money is spent in beer."

Kettering.—"Less beer is drank by the paupers."

Brixworth.—"It is thought that the idle and dissolute paupers frequent the beer-houses less than formerly, and the masters of these houses unanimously condemn the new system."

Mr. Bosworth, a large occupier in the parish of Spratton, has favoured me with a report on its present condition, from which I shall have occasion to transcribe more than one passage. His intelligence and opportunity of observing the results which he has witnessed entitle him to the greatest confidence. He says, "There is good reason for believing that in this parish not only are the labourers more industrious, and getting more money, but they are spending it better. This, of course, will not be true of every one, but from my own observation, and all I have heard, I do not hesitate to say there is less drunkenness amongst them."

Effect on pauper marriages.

In respect to the effect on pauper marriages.—From five Unions, the replies either negative any improvement in this particular, or are so qualified as to be inconclusive. The following, however, are satisfactory:

Kettering.—"It is supposed pauper marriages have been fewer."

Brackley.—"There have been no pauper marriages."

Northampton.—"It is the opinion of the board that pauper marriages are upon the decrease."

Towcester.—"Some think the number has decreased; others have not perceived any diminution."

Potterspury.—"The effect on pauper marriages is very evident and satisfactory; the number and imprudence of them having greatly diminished."

Hardingstone.—"They have decreased very much."

Bastardy.

The replies from the guardians to my inquiries into the effect produced on bastardy are very cautiously given; but by several of the boards an opinion is expressed that bastardy will be checked by the alteration in the law.

If the number of applications for relief from the mothers forms any criterion of the number of the illegitimate births, there is already abundant proof of success. For in the Towcester Union only two cases out of a population of 12,000 have been before the board during the last 12 months; and in the Northampton Union seven are all which a population of nearly 22,000 have produced. As far as my own observation extends, I think success is beyond all doubt.

It is not, however, to any real improvement in morals, though that will follow, that we are to look in the first few years of the experiment for the check upon this species

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of immorality: the apprehension of privations and of the other consequences which are now entailed upon the mother by the birth of a bastard child, will assuredly impose a restraint upon the female, even where the moral sense is deficient; but until the examples have been somewhat more numerous, and the effect of the law rightly understood, it would be premature to pronounce whether or not the anticipated results are likely to be completely realized.

Regarding affiliations, I need only say, that the expense of these proceedings at the quarter sessions will very soon put an end to the practice altogether; moreover, I think that the inexpediency on other grounds of pursuing the putative father is more acknowledged than it was, even by those who are most anxious that the profligacy of the man should not go unpunished.

Maintenance of paupers by relatives.

Much attention has been paid by the several boards to the necessity of requiring the relatives of paupers (wherever their ability is sufficient) to support at least those whose wants they are by law compelled to supply. Applications to relatives have been very numerous, and failure has rarely followed a judicious attempt to enforce the law. Indeed, in the great majority of cases, it is reported to me, that an application to the parties was followed by an immediate compliance on their part. Some, however, have escaped from the distance at which they reside from their native parish, and the difficulty and expense attendant upon proceeding against them. But on the whole, the exertions of the guardians cannot fail to produce a most beneficial effect, and in time, I trust, the statute on which such proceedings are taken, and which conveys so serious an imputation on the natural feelings of parents and children in this country, may become a dead letter.

Surplus labour and able-bodied pauperism.

Before I speak of the present state of the county as regards unemployed labour, or the applications to the several boards for relief on the plea of inability to obtain work, I feel myself justified in transcribing a few extracts from my reports to the Commissioners at the time I formed the Unions, with a view of showing the condition in which some of the parishes then were.

At the corresponding period of last year I wrote as follows of some of the parishes in the Brixworth Union:

"The number of able-bodied labourers who are at particular seasons of the year paid wholly or in part from the poor-rates is very great. This applies to Moulton, Brixworth, Spratton and Creaton, but Guilsborough, Boughton, Pitsford and Holcut can also produce their share of surplus labourers. At the time of my inquiries into these eight parishes, in the middle of May, there were more than 160 men on the parish. In Brixworth and Spratton alone I found from 60 to 70 men receiving from 4*s.* to 7*s.* a week for showing themselves every two hours to the overseers; while in the other parishes the roundsmen system was adopted in one form or another to relieve them from the importunity of the men."

After doing justice to the exertions of Mr. Nethercoat and others in the parish of Moulton, previously to my visiting it, I added, "I have frequently been asked what means will hereafter exist for getting rid of the surplus labour. In many instances I have felt at liberty to question its existence even in the individual parish, while regarding the whole district, I conceive there is a reasonable hope that sufficient wages may be earned throughout the year to support its labouring population.

"Surplus labour may and will disappear in three ways. A portion of those now on the parish have no right to apply for relief, because in the time they are employed they earn as much as those do in the year who are never on the parish. This is the case with a few, perhaps, good labourers, but dissolute men.

"Another portion will obtain work in the neighbouring parishes, where there is by no means a superabundance of men.

"A third, and the most satisfactory result to be expected, is the employment of more hands by enterprising farmers, who are deterred from employing that proportion of labour on their farms, which self-interest would induce them to expend, so long as some still remain to be paid out of the rates, to which the large farmers mainly contribute.

"I am quite aware that I am taking no new view of the subject; but I am anxious to record my anticipations that the surplus labourers of this part of North Hants will gradually disappear, upon the adoption and continued enforcement of strict regulations, under which all relief is to be hereafter granted."

It is of part of the district to which the foregoing refers (written last June), and in which the total number of men on the parish was 240, that Mr. Beasley, whose practical acquaintance and connexion with everything relating to agriculture enhances the value of his testimony, this present June, says: "Since the first day we met at Brixworth (10th July 1835) I have never heard of a roundsman in our parish, nor has a shilling been dispensed to an able-bodied labourer." And again, "Three months ago I inquired in three parishes, which were last year overwhelmed with surplus labourers, for a man to work for me upon land close by, without being able to obtain one."

It is of the same district that Mr. Harrington speaks when he says, "Since the commencement of our Union we have not received above a dozen applications for relief or work from able-bodied labourers of good character, nor have they been scared by the apprehension of severity, for the language of some has been, 'We had rather go to the board than to the old vestries, because we are sure of civil treatment.'"

Improvement of labourers.

Mr. Bosworth declares, describing the present condition of the worst parish in the same district, that "he sees an improvement exceeding his most sanguine expectations; since the commencement of the Union it has been marked and progressive." And again he says, "There is not now, nor has there been for some time past, a man or boy in want of work in this

this parish. A great reduction has been made in the rates during the winter, and I think it will be still greater in the present quarter, as compared with the previous period. This is good, but it is more important to observe the improved conduct of the labourers. I have no hesitation in saying that a better feeling now exists in this parish between master and man than for a very long time past. During the last six months I have seen many men applying for work, and seeking it in a tone and manner they had long been unaccustomed to. I believe that the farmers having less to pay in poor-rate, and being better satisfied with the conduct of the men, are employing more."

And, lastly, the board of guardians of the Brixworth Union, through Lord Spencer, their chairman, report to me, that in this district "the labourer is now certainly more anxious for employment; many who, under the old system, never thought of asking for work, now anxiously seek it; they are also more desirous of sending out their children to gain their own livelihood; the industrious labourer begins to appreciate the value of the new system, and to see that it places him in a situation superior to his idle and improvident neighbours, and, in some instances, he has expressed this opinion."

Of the parish of Shuttlehanger, in the Towcester Union, I last year reported, that the poor-rates amounted to more than 2*l.* a head; that the aged and infirm receiving relief were only 15; but the sums paid to men on the road were very large, 40 to 45 being frequently disposed of by that pernicious expedient. The clerk of the Union has recently acquainted me that Shuttlehanger had last year 14½ levies, while this year less than four will suffice. In the same Union the number of men and boys who habitually applied to the overseers for relief or work were estimated at 260; but since the Union has been formed the applications for relief from all classes has only averaged 13 weekly.

Of a parish in the Brackley Union I reported, that in the years 1833 and 1834 no less than 430*l.*, was paid out of the rates to surplus men without any return, and the population did not reach 600. In the whole Union there were 180 men and boys employed by the parishes.

The expenditure in the Brackley Union is less by upwards of 50 per cent. than on the average of the three preceding years, and although the pauper labourers of last year well know that the guardians have no workhouse of any description to offer, very few able-bodied men ever apply for relief. The proceedings of this board have advanced most satisfactorily under the influence of the chairman, Major Cartwright, to whose communication I refer with pleasure: he duly estimates the importance of accompanying the restrictions introduced by the change with those incentives to prudence, which were inoperative so long as they were counteracted by the maladministration of the poor laws; and he offers his opinion, the result of practical observation, on medical relief, clubs, and dispensaries for the poor.

There was not in the whole county a parish in a more pauperised state than that of Yardley Hastings. The gentleman who was engaged in Northamptonshire on the preliminary inquiry into the poor laws was attracted to it by its character for pauperism, and in his report may be found an account which, to those who had no previous acquaintance with the parish, would now be deemed an exaggerated description.

Yardley Hastings is in the Hardingstone Union, the clerk of which reports to me as follows:—

"It is very seldom that able-bodied paupers apply to the board;" and Lord Northampton, near to whose residence, and whose property it is, writes thus to me of the changes in his neighbourhood: 'I cannot conclude without remarking, that in the part of the Union in which I reside the able-bodied labourers have certainly obtained more full employment than for many years. This has no doubt been owing in part to the Birmingham Railway, but I believe in a very small degree. I mainly attribute it to an opinion on the part of the farmers, that the quality of the labour of the able-bodied poor has been improved by the operation of the new law.'"

In reference to the effects of the measure on the surplus labourers, it is worth while to observe, that the results in Northamptonshire, and in other places, where no workhouses exist, are both more surprising and gratifying than where that powerful engine has been in operation. For if the surplus labour, as it has been termed, has entirely or nearly disappeared, it proves, in the first place, that the evil, though apparently very great, was easily to be surmounted; and next, as the applications of able-bodied men in many Unions could not be met by any offer involving loss of liberty, to retain which the utmost sacrifices would be made, it is evident that if they have been exposed to any privations at all, they have been less than would have been incurred by an acceptance of the terms on which relief has been usually offered, namely, hard work at a low rate of wages.

The instances of families emigrating from North Hants at the public expense during the last year have been very few; but such as have been assisted by the parishes in removing from their native land have been usually described to me as confirmed paupers. The dread of the workhouse has driven them to a step which hitherto has been more frequently taken by those whose intelligence and spirit of enterprise occasioned regret rather than satisfaction at their departure.

Migration.

Migration, especially of single men, I am inclined to think, has relieved several of the parishes. From Thrapston no less than 40 persons, or about one-thirtieth part of the population, have very recently removed, principally to Birmingham, where the men have easily obtained situations as carters and porters, or employment of the description to which they have been all their lives accustomed.

I am well aware that it is the opinion of many careful observers, that the absence of surplus labourers is less to be attributed to the change of system, than to the increased demand

for labour, arising from the activity in trade and agriculture in general, and from the introduction of railways in particular districts. No one is less disposed than I am to undervalue the favourable circumstances attendant on the period at which the commission has commenced its duties, but I cannot avoid remarking that it is very easy to mistake the effect for the cause; and that the increased anxiety on the part of the labourer to obtain work, the improved value of his labour, and the addition to the means of those who are to employ him, occasioned by the very large diminution in the rates already realized, account for much, if not all, of the facility with which employment is now obtained.

Why should a character for permanence be denied to the results of a system, now for the first time adopted throughout a material portion of England, which experience has proved them to possess while confined to isolated districts? and why should not a continued adherence to the same system produce, throughout England and Wales, the same progressive improvement which has attended its adoption in Cookham and other places?

Able-bodied females.

The able-bodied females are the next class to which I shall advert. Of all paupers, the young and healthy widows, and those with children, are the most difficult to restore to independence. Some obstacles arise from the natural feelings of the guardians, most of whom are so accustomed to regard it as a matter of course that every widow should be a parish pensioner, that they conceive their independence to be impossible, and are only induced to make the attempt after experiencing success in some cases, where the bad character of the applicant has led them to act with unwonted rigour.

Widows.

The notion that every widow is by law entitled to the "widow's pay," is so deeply rooted that nothing but the most peremptory treatment will induce them to forego it, or to supply the want of it by increased industry, and their children are never regarded in any other light than as a legacy bequeathed to the parish by their deceased father. Besides the difficulty of counteracting such feelings as these, the lace trade in Northamptonshire has rendered the females in many cases unequal to, and in all indisposed to, avail themselves of such branches of agricultural employment as are usually undertaken by women in other countries; and they will not abandon an occupation in which the earnings rarely exceed 3 *s.* a week, and betake themselves to more healthy and more productive employment. Still some progress has been made, and a diminution in the number of paupers of this class has been effected in all, and in six of the Unions it is declared to be already "very considerable."

Among the inquiries I made of the guardians, was the following:

Aged and infirm.

"What is the board's opinion of the effect of the new system upon the condition of the aged and infirm paupers who continue to be relieved out of the house?"

From five Unions the answer simply implied that no change, one way or the other, could have been experienced by the aged and infirm; but from seven the reply is in effect, that their condition is improved, and their satisfaction greater under the new system than the old.

In addition to this evidence I adduce the testimony of the Rev. Mr. Harington, to be found in his valuable and intelligent letter, which I append. Although satisfied that this class of paupers were not exposed to increased hardship from the change, he has entered into calculations which should have been undertaken by those thoughtless persons who have declaimed against the cruelty and oppression of the new system; he has disproved their assertions, without waiting for any attempt on their part to prove them, and he has done good service in at once quieting the real apprehensions of the aged and infirm paupers, and the pretended alarms of their exclusive protectors.

I will not transcribe that passage in Mr. Harington's letter, which relates to this subject, but invite special attention to it, as also to the corroboration of it, which is to be found in every one of the communications annexed to this report, and particularly the following, from Mr. Bosworth's remarks on the present condition of the parish of Spratton: "It is the more gratifying to be able to state that the change which has so materially reduced the expenditure of the poor's-rate has not, in any degree, abridged the comforts of the aged and really necessitous paupers. Indeed from what I have seen, I believe they are better off, from the promptness and regularity with which their real wants are supplied, and better satisfied in the conviction that all are dealt with according to their circumstances, without favouritism or partiality."

Medical relief.

There is no part of the arrangements connected with the relief of the poor of more real importance, and none to which less has been commonly attached, than the means of supplying medical aid to the poor. Hence, perhaps, the excitement which has been occasioned by the endeavours of those serving under the commission to apply the same rules which are found to be salutary and practicable, as regards general relief, to the cases where medical aid is all that is asked for. The part that the medical profession have taken in it I am not going to discuss, and I shall only allude to their objection to the practice of their requiring tenders for the purpose of saying that, as far as my experience goes, no advantage whatever is gained by it. After having induced several of the boards of guardians under my charge to ask for tenders for medical services, and after finding that the practice produced coalition rather than competition, I tried the method of fixing the amount of salary; and I am bound to say, that some of the profession have showed themselves very willing to accept moderate terms.

To this practice I have since adhered, because I conceive that the first year may be regarded as an experiment, and that at the close of it we shall have in the diaries of the medical officers means of adjusting the scale of remuneration, which we do not at present possess.

The

The order of the Commissioners which directs that the contracts shall include all paupers found within the Union gives the greatest satisfaction to the parishes, and will, in my opinion, prevent many injudicious removals. Until the whole kingdom is under the same order, no parish is secure from great and unavoidable expense; and as much offence has been taken at a passage on this subject in the First Annual Report of the Commissioners, I feel bound to mention an instance strongly illustrative of the evils which are sought to be remedied by the order just alluded to.

A man severely injured on the railway was removed to the workhouse at Coventry, and was there attended by one of the four parish surgeons. His case was of a most serious description, and he suffered the amputation of one leg, and the other, being broken, was set. He remained at the workhouse for several months, for a long time requiring daily attendance, and was then removed to his parish in Cheshire, with a charge for medical attendance alone, of no less a sum than 40*l.* I understand the charge for the amputation of the limb was 10*l.* 10*s.*

If the law permit a surgeon to recover from the parish a demand of this nature for his attendance on a pauper, he cannot be blamed for making it; but it requires little argument to prove the necessity for a change beyond this, that the same gentleman contracts for 40*l.* a year to attend to one-fourth of all the pauper cases arising in the town of Coventry, with its population of 30,000, receiving an additional 10*l.* for his attendance at the workhouse for one quarter of the year. Thus, for his cure of one pauper in the workhouse he received a remuneration equal to that which he obtained for his attendance on his share of all the out-patients for a year, and this only because the man did not happen to belong to Coventry.

The system of contracting with the surgeon for a sum certain, has enabled most parishes to supply, at a very moderate cost, medical aid to all who chose to ask for it, and overseers, without much regard to the spirit of the contract, have thus been encouraged to allow his services to many from whom they would have been withheld if the parish had incurred an additional expense by every order for the surgeon's attendance.

That the application for the parish surgeon is often the first step to pauperism, few who have thought upon the matter will deny; and I am disposed to believe also, that a labourer not unfrequently asks for medical aid when the parish is under a contract, from the notion that he is asking for that which costs nothing.

The medical practitioners also seem to have imbibed opinions almost as erroneous as those of the poor themselves. From their complaints of the inadequacy of the remuneration they receive, they appear to think that the whole labouring population of England have, by law, a title to their services at the expense of the parish. It never occurs to them, that one method of increasing their profit on the contract is to lessen the services required of them, or that the same step could, by possibility, lead to their reaping greater professional gains from an increased number of free patients. It is difficult to account, in any other way, for the slow progress which medical clubs have made in the estimation of the practitioners, who, with comparatively few exceptions, have not until recently taken a leading part in their establishment.

But it is said to be hard to deprive the poor of the assistance which they have hitherto received from the parish in sickness. If, however, it can be shown that medical aid be within the reach of a labourer receiving the ordinary wages of the country, it will, I presume, be admitted that he has no more title to it, at the expense of the parish, than he has to a money payment whenever he may ask for it.

That it is within his means, through the ageney of clubs, no one who is familiar with the terms on which they can be supported will dispute.

The Brackley club, for instance, affords medicine and attendance to the husband, the wife, and all children under 10 years of age, for the sum of 1 ½*d.* a week; and in town populations the terms are known to be even lower than these.

But what avails the establishment of these clubs, or the moderation of their charges, so long as the two parties principally interested in the matter are deterred from co-operating?

The medical men, as well as the labourers, have, in fact, been taught to look to the parish, and do not yet see that the establishment of clubs on the most moderate terms, and the withholding parish relief, will in the end be advantageous to both parties.

If evil has arisen from the practice of contracting for a sum certain for the professional services of the surgeon, the difficulty of adopting any other plan, even since the formation of Unions, has been, according to my experience, very great; but until the preferable mode of contracting by the case be generally introduced, we must look to the good sense and judgment of the guardians for the means of checking the indiscriminate allowance of medical aid.

The only present expedient for at once securing the safety of the poor, and promoting their independence, is to withhold all medical relief, except on the terms of a loan to those who can but will not subscribe to the dispensary or club.

A steady adherence to this plan will, in the end, prove successful; it can scarcely fail if, on the one hand, the repayment of the loan is exacted, not necessarily to the extent of the recipient's means, but at any rate in proportion to the subscription required of him; and if, on the other, the salaries of the medical officers be only just adequate to their attendance on pauper cases.

With a view of encouraging the club at Brackley, the guardians have rigidly observed this practice. Their success has been considerable; but prudential habits being of slow growth, the number of subscribers is not even yet as great as may be expected. To show, however, what may, and I think will, be the result, I may state, that in a small parish, the population of which is about 500, the subscribers are no less than 94. The success, in this

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instance, is attributable, I believe, to the clergyman of the parish, who has taken the pains of explaining to the poor the objects and advantages of the institution. If a similar number of subscribers was obtained from every other part of the Union (and time alone is wanting), the club would be completely successful, and the medical officers of it well rewarded.

So in the Rugby Union, the guardians have provided their relieving officers and the overseers with two forms of medical tickets, of which the following are copies:

Pauper Medical Ticket,

From the 23d of May to the 23d of November 1836.

, being sick and not able to pay for medical aid, is to receive the same of the surgeon for district No. .

Signed, .

Loan Medical Ticket for one Case only.

, being in want of medical aid for himself, or for , his wife, or for , his child, having represented that is not able at the present time to pay for it, is to receive the same of the surgeon for district No. .

Signed, .

N. B.—The bill of the expense thus incurred is to be sent by the surgeon to the relieving officer, immediately after the patient has been dismissed, in order to its being laid before two magistrates, who are authorized to order the amount to be paid by the patient to the parish; but in cases where such return shall not be ordered, the patient's name will be published in the quarterly list of paupers.

Their use is considerable, as they serve to remind the overseers, to whom an instructional letter is sent, that a distinction is to be made between the pauper and the independent labourer; and they are also the means of conveying information respecting the intentions of the guardians to the party who receives them.

Still, neither limiting the number of medical officers, or reducing their salaries, or the publication of the rules of a club, will alone effect the objects; the guardians must be kept alive to a sense of the importance of not extending medical relief; and on their prudence, consistency and firmness much, if not all, depends.

Hence it is desirable that they should have no inducement to depart from sound principle, or rather, that they should be rendered watchful, by the sense that every order for relief brings an additional expense on the parishes.

In the Peterborough Union the guardians have succeeded in obtaining contracts on the per-case principle, and the terms are very moderate. In the parish of Peterborough, with its hamlets scattered over 4,000 or 5,000 acres, the payment is 3*s.* a case; in other parts of the Union, which is purposely divided into small districts, the terms vary from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* Having lately had an opportunity of making personal inquiry into the success which attends the new contracts, I could not learn that the medical officers had expressed any dissatisfaction with the terms; on the contrary, I was informed that the gentleman who has the Peterborough contract has expressed his preference for the new plan, only complaining that the guardians do not send many cases to him. This is likely to be true, since they adhere to the rule of never allowing medical relief to any labourer who is in the receipt of wages; if the head of the family be the patient, then, in cases of urgency, they supply it by loan.

I was also informed that this gentleman took charge of free patients on the same terms; and the advantages of the plan are still more apparent, when we reflect how easy the transition is, from such an arrangement, to a general insurance of the health of the poor man's family, by the subscription to a medical club.

In a pecuniary point of view, the advantages are likely also to be great; for if the number of cases continue through the year in the same ratio as during the first two months, the expense will not exeeed 150*l.* for the whole Union, comprising 21,000 people; whereas the contract under the old system was, for Peterborough alone, 80*l.*

In several of the Unions recently formed, under my superintendence, in Warwickshire, I hope to introduce the same system.

The inclination of the labouring classes to connect themselves with clubs of one description or another is, beyond all doubt, increasing, and is one of the most important and gratifying consequences of the change in the poor laws. It will be seen that Sir George Robinson has observed this result in his neighbourhood, and that it applies as well to clubs of recent formation as to those of older date.

I shall mention here an anecdote, which serves to prove the disinclination which those who have been accustomed to apply to the parish have to abate one particle of what they imagine to be their right. The fact was mentioned in my presence, at a board of guardians, by a most respectable surgeon, who gave it as an instance of the inconvenience and unnecessary trouble to which the medical officers were subjected by the conduct of paupers.

A woman sent for him in haste to see her child; the distance was five miles. On seeing his patient he remarked, that it was hardly necessary to have sent for him, as a small dose of salts was all that was required. The mother replied that she knew that, adding, "why am I to save the parish the salts?"

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In a parish near Peterborough, at a meeting held with a view of commencing a medical club, the men with large families declined to belong to it, assigning as their reason that the parish was sure to cure them as soon as possible, on account of the expense their families would entail on the parish during their sickness. Sick clubs.

Arguments such as these, and advantages not greater than the cost of an ounce of salts, thus induce a continued reliance on the parish, and if the poor be encouraged, as they hitherto have been, by an easy compliance with trifling requests, their habits of prudence will remain unimproved, and their independence will never be secured.

I shall close this subject by giving an account, which may be useful, of a sick club, established by the Rev. Mr. Sitwell, in the parish of Leamington-Hastings.

The object of the club is, to supply any sum to the sick under the amount of their wages for the first six months of sickness; each farthing a week subscribed entitles the subscriber to 1 *s.* in sickness; the allowance for the first three months is paid from the free members fund; that of the second three months from a fund subscribed by honorary members; a reserved fund is raised to supply deficiencies in a year of more than ordinary sickness. The funds in hand at the end of the year are divided amongst the members, and on the average of the three years, during which the club has been established, nearly one half of the subscriptions have been returned.

For an account of the complete success of this club, which is necessarily on a small scale, the population of the parish being only 460, I shall refer to the annexed letter from Mr. Sitwell.

It will be found to be interesting, not merely from the proof it gives of the independent feeling which the club has created among the labourers of his parish, but his observations on the effects produced, as well on the poor as on the permanent interests of a parish, by well-endowed charities, are worthy of the attention of those who have the inclination during their lifetime, or by their will, to devote their wealth to charitable uses.

Public opinion, if I am able rightly to estimate it, will soon cease to be influenced by the mistaken feelings, the erroneous reasonings, or the senseless clamour of the various assailants of the Poor Law Amendment Act. In my own district, I can safely say I meet with few opponents, with more converts, and with assistance from many supporters.

To the letters which form a Supplement to this report I refer with great satisfaction; their contents will be found neither irrelevant nor uninstructive; they are the willing testimony of competent witnesses, of station, character and intelligence; of persons practically experienced in the working of a measure, from which they in common with all others similarly engaged confidently anticipate great and lasting benefits on that very class of our fellow-beings who have been pronounced to be the victims of unnecessary and oppressive innovations.

I am, &c.

The Poor Law Commissioners of England and Wales. *Richard Earle.*

SUPPLEMENT to Mr. Earle's Report.

Copies or Extracts of Letters addressed to Mr. *Earle.*

I RECEIVED your letter yesterday, and can have no objection to state that, with your assistance, the new poor law appears to me to have worked very well in the Hardingstone Union. I say appears to have worked well, as from the very short time that the Union has been formed, it might appear presumptuous to use more decided terms; but in fact there has been a great reduction in parochial expenditure, with little complaint of hardship, though complaints must be expected under any system. Indeed, I have no hesitation in saying, that the new poor law, as long as the two classes of guardians, the elected and the official, continue to act together with union and zeal, with care and moderation, patiently inquiring into claims for relief, and remembering that the new code should be brought gradually into operation, and unnecessary harshness to those who have grown old under different expectations should be avoided, so long it may be hoped that the advantage of preventing mendicity and extreme poverty will be obtained without the counterbalancing evils and alarm so much and so justly complained of. All that appears to me necessary, in addition to the continued services of guardians in the same spirit, is the support and instructions of the Poor Law Commissioners, with a certain degree of latitude allowed to the different boards to modify the execution of any instructions they may receive according to local circumstances, of which they alone can be judges. I cannot conclude without remarking, that in the part of the Union in which I reside the able-bodied labourers have certainly obtained more full employment than for many years. This has, no doubt, been owing, in part, to the Birmingham Railway, but I believe in a very small degree. I mainly attribute it to an opinion, on the part of the farmers, that the quality of the labour of the able-bodied poor has been improved by the operation of the new law. The Marquis of Northampton, Chairman of Hardingstone Union.

Believe me, &c.

7, Park Crescent, 12 May 1836. *Northampton.*

IN the district to which an opportunity of observation has been afforded me, no material obstruction to the working of the new machinery has taken place. The provisions of the late Act have been applied in the Brixworth Union with uniform facility; a fact which will perhaps Rev. R. Harington, Vice-Chairman of Brixworth Union.

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perhaps be satisfactory to those who are engaged in watching the operation of this important system: for, if the results intended by it have been regularly and easily attained at so early a stage of its organization, one is naturally led to the conclusion, that the means are well adapted to the end, and promise a permanent continuance, if not a progressive increase, of the benefits to be derived from them. The institution of well-regulated workhouses, of a capacity suited to the magnitude and character of the population for whose use they are designed, appears essential to the completion of the new machinery. This advantage we do not yet possess, the building of our Union workhouse being still in progress; and if highly beneficial effects have been produced under the new system while the board of guardians had no better ultimate resource than an offer of an admission into a house too small to allow of any thing approaching to a complete system of discipline, it is reasonable to expect that they will proceed with more vigour and greater success, when they are provided with a workhouse establishment, regularly organized under careful management and vigilant superintendence.

I am well aware that a saving in the rates alone forms no just ground on which to claim the merit of success for the Poor Law Amendment Act; but if it can be shown that not only a great saving of expense has been effected, but that, meanwhile, the supplies to the aged and infirm paupers have (to say the least) been undiminished; and if the habits and conduct of the able-bodied labourers have displayed a marked improvement since the introduction of the new system, we may surely consider that the recent modification of our poor laws has, to a great extent, already realized the expectations of those who suggested and of those who have adopted them. In the parishes comprised by the Brixworth Union a very great reduction has taken place in the amount of the poor-rates, and I am quite confident that this benefit has not been acquired by the sacrifice of anything due, either in justice or in charity, to the classes for whose relief that impost is designed; nay more, I do not hesitate ro say that the present condition and future prospects of those classes, in the district referred to, have undergone an extensive and gratifying improvement.

During the period of three years ending March 25, 1835, the average annual expenditure for the relief of the poor in the 30 parishes originally constituting the Brixworth Union, amounted to 11,355 *l.* The sums expended by the board of guardians for the like purpose, including the whole of the establishment charges, amounted, for the quarters ending respectively on 25th December, 1835, and on 25th March 1836, to 2,938 *l.* 17 *s.* 5 *d.* Hence it will appear that, under the new system, the expenditure for half a year has been less than that under the former administration for the like period, by no less than 2,588 *l.*

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Half of the annual average - - - - - - - -				5,677	10	–
Expended in two quarters by guardians -	£. 2,938	17	5			
Medical relief, by contract, or otherwise, not included in the statement of expenditure by the board, estimated at - - - - -	150	–	–			
				3,088	17	5
Difference—Amount of saving - - £.				2,588	12	7

The comparison is somewhat less favourable than the truth, since the statement of expenditure during the half-year ending on Lady-day last includes the establishment charges from the commencement of the Union on the 9th July 1835, the particulars of which, incurred previously to Michaelmas-day in that year, I have not at this moment the means of separating, consequently it will be little beyond the truth to state that the saving has reached 46 per cent. upon the expenditure of the last three years.

In order to ascertain what proportion of this great reduction was sustained by the aged and infirm paupers, I have carefully examined the overseers' accounts of 13 parishes, of various extent, chosen indifferently from those of the Brixworth Union. The allowances given to this class at Christmas respectively 1832–33–34 have been compared with those awarded by the board of guardians at Christmas 1836. It appeared that in five of the 13 parishes, the average amount of the relief supplied weekly to an aged or infirm widow had, as estimated in money, undergone no variation at all; in six places it had sustained a reduction ranging from 8 *d.* to 1 *s.* a week, and in the remaining two had been actually increased; but, in the course of the specified period of three years, the price of wheat had fallen from 6 *s.* 6 *d.* per bushel at the end of 1832, to 4 *s.* 6 *d.* per bushel at the close of 1835; so that, the allowances being estimated in the largest article of consumption by the poor, the paupers of this class, in every case, not excepting that from which 1 *s.* had been taken away (of which I may observe that I have found in this class but one example), were actually receiving more from the board of guardians, than from the parochial authorities in 1832, when the award of the latter was liable to the revision of the magistrates, against whom the charge of pinching the poor has (I believe) never been alleged.

A like examination of the cases of aged and infirm male paupers in the same parishes has produced results so nearly similar that it is not worth while to repeat the particulars; but I desire to remark, further, that, since it is our practice to determine the amount of relief, given in kind, by weight and not by its value in money; and since (at least in the cases of such as are wholly dependent on the poor-rate) we have always given as much bread as we thought the recipient could consume, the late rise in the price of wheat has made little or no difference to the supplies of the class of which I am speaking, though of course it has had the effect of enlarging the gross amount of the expenditure.

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I have dwelt (I fear tediously) upon these facts, because it has been frequently insinuated by persons whose carelessness is no less remarkable than their humanity, that the boasted saving of the new system is derived from undue severity to the aged and infirm poor; and I trust I have made it appear that, in the Brixworth Union at least, justice has been done to the rate-payer, without compromising, in the least degree, the reasonable claims of that class which is, least of all, in a condition to forego them.

There can be no doubt that the bulk of our savings is derived from the payments formerly made out of the poor-rates to able-bodied labourers. Such payments, though said to be given as relief, may be more properly considered as the result of a tacit compromise between the labourer and his employer; the former threw his labour into a common fund, from which the latter was to draw his supplies as he required them; upon the condition, however, that work or the price of work (in many cases the remuneration of labour with the option of performing it or not) was always to be provided for the labourer, at a certain rate, in proportion to the number of his family. The poor-rates were pledged for the fulfilment of the contract, and the scale was virtually determined in the way of arbitration by the neighbouring magistrates. The effect of this system, when in full activity, was, as it is well known, to obliterate the individuality of the labourer, by forcing him to consider himself not the servant of this or that particular "master," but of "the farmers" collectively; a notion which almost entirely precluded any care for the goodwill of his employer; and at the same time the dead level at which, while the number of his family remained the same, the amount of his earnings was fixed, deprived him of the natural encouragements to exertion, the hope of elevating and the fear of depressing his condition; and yet such a man (to use the language of Mr. Senior) was "expected to be diligent, though he has no fear of want; provident, though his pay rises as his family increases; attached to a master who employs him in pursuance of a vestry resolution, and grateful for the allowance which the magistrate orders him as a right." This baneful system has less extensively prevailed, and has therefore had less mischievous influence in this part of the country than in many others; but though the fruit has been less abundant, it is the same in kind. Masters universally complained of the unsatisfactory behaviour of their men, "that there was no bringing them to begin their labour at a proper time in the morning, that they loitered away their time, that they did not care how their work was done," and that on the occurrence of the most trifling dispute a man would quit his employer, with abusive or contemptuous language, and go off to the overseer or to the parish vestry "to draw a ticket."

Not being myself an employer of labour to any extent worth mentioning, my testimony upon this point must be given, for the most part, at second hand; but still, as a resident in the country, and as a parochial minister, I have seen enough with my own eyes to assure me that the representations of an improved state of feeling among the labourers which I have received from every farmer, with whom I have conversed upon the subject, are substantially correct. All agree in affirming that the labourers are more regular and attentive, more civil and obliging, more anxious to obtain employment for themselves, and more desirous of retaining their places when they have procured them; in a word, that the natural relations of employer and labourer are satisfactory and rapidly re-establishing themselves. And that this desirable improvement is not the mere result of a harsh severity in the application of the law, is manifest, from the fact, that since the commencement of our Union we have not received (cases of sickness excepted) above a dozen applications for relief or work from able-bodied labourers of good character. Nor have they been scared by the apprehension of severity; for the language of some has been, "We had rather go to the board than to the old vestries, because we are sure of civil treatment." I have been told that relief has been generally awarded by our board of guardians upon a higher scale than in some other Unions. I cannot speak with certainty to this point; but, if the fact be true, its tendency is to show that our advantages have been gained by a comparatively trifling sacrifice on the part of the poor; and I may here observe, that it is not, as I apprehend, the object of the law to save expense by dealing out a niggardly measure of relief to the truly necessitous, but by ascertaining with precision who are, and who are not, the proper objects of public charity. Consequently, a line between the pauper and the independent labourer having been clearly drawn and fully recognized, we have always thought it our duty to avoid the infliction of gratuitous suffering, by depressing any one to an unnecessary degree below it.

The facts which I have stated and referred to have been carefully collected: they are given with scrupulous fidelity, if not with absolute exactness, and it certainly appears to me that they are of a gratifying character.

The new system has, no doubt, produced happy results within the limits of our Union; but lest, speaking as a guardian, I should appear to claim a merit for the board which does not properly belong to it, I think it my duty to advert to two or three circumstances external to the law itself, but providentially coincident with its operation, which have been highly favourable to us.

In the first place our Union entirely consists of the agricultural classes, in which the demand for labour is less liable to sudden and extensive fluctuations than in the towns, and further, our board of guardians, almost entirely consisting of persons engaged in the same business, is much more likely to agree in estimating the rate after which relief is to be afforded, than one in which agriculturists and manufacturers are called upon to decide reciprocally upon the claims or necessities of each other.

But I allude more particularly to the low price which wheat has lately brought, until within the last two months, and to the increased demand for labour upon the account of the railroads in this county. These circumstances had probably had, previously to the introduction of the new system, a considerable effect in diminishing the amount of the poor-

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rates, which was much lower for the last than for the next preceding years, as is well known to yourself and others who have been engaged in computing the averages.

The cheapness of provisions, by continuing to increase the facility of procuring a living, has, *pro tanto*, counteracted the pressure which some might have expected, on the first application of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and the demand for labour on the railroads which has been abstracted from the ordinary fields of employment, has naturally left more room for those whom it has not actually withdrawn. How long these circumstances will continue in operation I cannot venture to predict; but, were they to undergo a material change, I cannot but think that the boards of guardians would be engaged in a struggle against a fresh inroad of pauperism. I trust it would be overcome, but the apparent results at least would probably be less gratifying either in kind or in extent. A sudden failure of the sources of employment which have been opened within the last two years is perhaps not likely to happen, but the price of wheat has already risen, and a small defalcation of the usual supply from a deficient harvest (and we cannot surely reckon upon their always being abundant) might raise that commodity to what has been called the pivot price, at which the present corn laws, if they are adapted in any degree to answer the end for which they are designed, might, for a time at least, maintain it. Such a change as this would doubtless enlarge the class of paupers, (*i. e.* of persons, destitute of property, the value of whose labour is not equal to the cost of their maintenance,) and the increased difficulty of administering a rigid system of poor laws would be painfully enhanced in the mind of any one, who is sensible of the apparent injustice of pressing with severity upon many persons whose inability to maintain themselves by their labour will have been derived from no fault of theirs, from no improvidence of which it were the naturally appropriate punishment, but from the direct operation of a law avowedly, and carefully, if not successfully, designed for the benefit of others. It is perhaps wrong to anticipate difficulties, but I could not forbear an allusion to this, whether in reviewing the past or in estimating the future. It is evident that the cost of maintaining a given number of paupers will rise or fall with a rise or fall in the price of the chief article of their consumption. During the period which I have attempted to review, that price has been so low as greatly to reduce the cost of maintenance per head, while another cause (viz. the increased demand for labour) has concurrently operated to diminish the number to be supplied. And it appears to me important to make due allowance for these circumstances in estimating the advantages already realized by or hereafter expected from the working of the new law. Whatever be the wisdom that contrived the law itself, or the skill employed in its application, the harvest of improvement which has been gathered, cannot (I venture to think) be wholly attributed to them. Hitherto we have acted under circumstances so remarkably favourable, that we cannot take credit to ourselves for the whole saving effected under the new management; and, on the other hand, should the accounts of the following years exhibit a less rapidly progressive diminution of expense than some expect, it is to be hoped that they who are disappointed will look to those extrinsic circumstances which must needs modify the effects of any system of poor laws, and especially to the price of wheat, before they condemn this or censure those who shall have been engaged in administering it.

I had intended to offer a few remarks upon the regulations issued by the Poor Law Commissioners for the keeping and auditing of the parochial accounts; but my letter has already run so far beyond the limits I had proposed for it, that I cannot venture to trouble you with more than a single observation upon this point. I have paid some attention to it, and (though the set forms be themselves admirably adapted to their purpose) I can state as a fact that they have not been adopted in more than two or three instances in our Union, and I do not hesitate to declare my conviction that they never will (because practically speaking, they never can) be used until a functionary is employed, properly qualified as an accountant, for the regulation of the several parish officers' books. I am, &c.,

The Rectory, Old, Northampton, May 20, 1836. *Richard Harington.*

The Rev. Sir George Robinson, Bart., Chairman of Kettering Union.

The returns sent up from hence to the Board of Commissioners speak for themselves as to the reduction of expenditure, showing, I believe, a very considerable difference between this year, (supposing that no increase takes place on the next two quarters, of which there is little probability,) and the average of the preceding three. This reduction, too, I think I may safely say, has been brought about without any pressure upon the poor themselves; indeed you would probably think that we have been much too indulgent, inasmuch as the board has not yet completed the work of thoroughly revising the cases which were on the parish books previously to the introduction of the new system. I am unwilling, however, to look at the matter as one principally of pounds, shillings and pence, and great as the reduction of expense has been in this and other districts, I should consider it dearly earned if the poor had suffered in consequence. As far as my observation extends, and that is no farther than to this immediate neighbourhood, I do not think that such is by any means the case.

With regard to the moral effects of the new system, of which you ask my opinion, half a year is too short a time to allow for passing any decided judgment upon such a point; but the farmers seem generally to agree that their labourers and servants are more steady to their work, more anxious to retain a comfortable situation, when they get one, and, therefore, of course, more obliging and obedient to their employers.

There is one circumstance that may be confidently appealed to as a proof that a more independent feeling is beginning to arise amongst the lower classes of our people; what I allude to, is the establishment of sick clubs and benefit societies.

I have heard of several that either have been formed or are on the point of being formed

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in this neighbourhood. In my own parish I formed one about three years ago, upon the improved system, though two of the old public-house clubs were already in existence, and that in a population of less than 500; the new one already numbers more than 50 members, and one of the others has increased during the last year to a greater extent than it ever did before. I heard yesterday of five families at Thrapston who have migrated to the manufacturing districts and found comfortable employment. One large and pauperized family who had been frequently on the parish, and were always discontented, removed from this parish immediately after the introduction of the new system, to Northampton, where the man, who is a shoemaker, now gets regular occupation, though he had been a great burden to us for several years past. I do not know that I have anything else to communicate in reply to your letter; but any particular questions that you may wish to put, I shall have much pleasure in answering. My view of the new law is, that it will work very favorably to all classes of society, but especially to the poor themselves; this, however, I am bound to add, that I cannot think the experiment hitherto made of it is such as to be very confidently relied upon; there has been during the last winter plenty of work and comparatively high wages. Under adverse circumstances, I hope and believe it would still operate beneficially, but this remains to be proved. I am, &c.

Cranford, May 14, 1836. *George S. Robinson.*

Major Cartwright, Chairman of Brackley Union.

The new system under the Poor Law Amendment Act having been in operation in this Union the last six months, I presume that you may like to hear what progress we have made. It gives me much pleasure to make my report, as I feel satisfied that during the short period we have been at work, and without any workhouse to assist us, you will consider that we have done as much as could have been expected.

This Union, comprising about 13,350 in population, had the average of the last three years' payment struck at 11,743 *l.*; the reduction between last Michaelmas and Lady-day (the winter half year) stands thus: first quarter, amount expended 1,306 *l.*; second ditto, 1,468 *l.* Total expenditure, 2,774 *l.*, which if deducted from half of the average, 5,872 *l.*, leaves 3,098 *l.*, or rather more than the sum paid for relief. But this is unfavourable to the Union account, inasmuch as it takes half of the average only, for the winter half year, whereas much more was spent in that period than during the remainder of the year. Still it shows a clear deduction from the average of 3,098 *l.*, sufficient to employ 300 labourers at the full wages for the said half year.

I will not state any more as regards the reduction of expenditure, as our returns will clearly show what has been done, but I will turn at once to what is more important, the moral improvement of the poor. Prior to the new system coming into operation, this part of the country, as you must be aware, was making rapid strides towards the abuses of the old law, as they prevailed in the most pauperised districts. The magistrates had foreseen the evil and endeavoured to correct it, but were frustrated in their attempts by the malpractices and obstinacy of vestries; the poor themselves were becoming indolent, and drew their pay as if they had a right to it, or, as one of them stated to a vestry of this parish, as a part of his annuity. Many were partly paid out of the book. The head-money system, however, had been nearly extinguished by the hands of the magistrates; still in most of the villages (some few had been well managed) were to be found the idle and dissolute reaping equal profit with the industrious, and the latter rapidly yielding to the temptation held out to them to become idle themselves. The difference now, I rejoice to say, is striking; the industrious are shaking off their idle habits, and the indolent, finding that an appeal to the board of guardians is not the same as their threatening to appeal to a vestry, being thrown on their own resources, support themselves and families. The most part of our able-bodied men follow the occupation of labourers; others, who have been fattening on the rate-payers, are applying themselves to trades and various occupations; in fact, now all appear to be busied for the hive. There may be some who are not in settled occupation, but still they are on the move; none appear with their backs against the village walls with a defying look of insolence depicted in their faces, busy only in concocting mischief. It is too early to report any improvement that I have witnessed in their domestic habits, but it stands to reason, that as industry makes its way into the cottage the love of the beer-shop will be cooled, and poaching and crime of all sorts must necessarily decline.

The coercive system is supported by inducements of all descriptions to become provident in the various shapes of clothing clubs, coal subscriptions, friendly societies, medical clubs, &c. The establishment of the latter and the application of medical relief is a point I wish to report to you upon.

The road to pauperism through medical relief has been made so easy, that it has been the determination of the board of guardians to prevent its being unnecessarily approached. For this purpose the whole Union has been provided with a village dispensary or a club, and this supported by a firmness not to give relief except to those on the book, or if not on the book then only by way of loan, has induced many to enter. Every thing depends on the resolution of the board; as an example of which I must state, that in the early part of the winter, for one week, the board made too liberal an arrangement with regard to the doctor's attendance, upon which an immediate resignation of the subscribers to the clubs ensued. This was, however, soon remedied, and although some remain careless about entering, on the whole much has been done, and time will, I have no doubt, do all we could wish on the subject. We have the self-supporting dispensary and the club. The former appears, from a circular just sent down, to be the one selected by the Poor Law Commissioners; in my opinion, however, the latter is preferable. The former is a bargain between the medical man

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man and labourer direct; the latter between the honorary members and medical man. Thus in the first case a medical man may exact what terms he chooses, and in the second it is a sum arranged by the gentlemen of the county and the medical man; the one being a mere payment in lieu of the bill, the latter the foundation for a club, which, if properly supported, may extend to surgical instruments, viz. trusses and other useful charities, such as baskets with all necessaries for the lying-in women, &c. I think it right, however, to state, that the dispensaries fill faster than the club, which I account for by the medical man having an absolute power over the poor man, whom he may not choose to attend unless he enters his dispensary. On the whole, although the medical men having dispensaries appear in this Union to be acting very liberally, still I am inclined to the third party being introduced; I mean the honorary members, composed of landlords and tenants. It appears to me, that the making it an annual payment will be too severe, and that quarterly payments are far preferable. In the medical club we have here, our object has been to reduce the payments of those who have large families as much as possible, and for this purpose we do not exact anything from those under 10 whose parents subscribe. I have dwelt rather at length on the subject of medical relief, because it appears to me the most tender part of the new arrangements; but I am satisfied the poor will find the benefit of a strict control over its administration.

There is one other point I wish to touch upon, which is bastardy. The recommendation to parishes not in a common case to apply to quarter sessions for an order on the father has been successful, and we have not had a second case sent up. We give generally one loaf, or two at the outside, and the expenses of the process would be, in proportion to the relief administered, excessive. This relief is also only given till the mother becomes able to maintain herself and child. I know of no other topic. Nothing can be more attentive than the guardians in general. There has never been a division in the board since the first meeting on the election of the officer. I have no scruple in saying, that from all I have seen of the bill it has been of essential service to the farmer and labourer. That reciprocity of feeling, which I hold to be truly national, but which has been of late years on the wane, is about to be revived, I mean that of the farmer knowing the value of an industrious labourer, and the labourer the value of being employed by a good master. I am, &c.

Brackley, May 19, 1836. *W. Cartwright.*

John Beasley, Esq.

That the effect of the whole measure has operated most beneficially upon all classes, even beyond the expectation of the most sanguine, is, I believe, the unanimous opinion of the Brixworth board of guardians, of all the well-informed people with whom I have conversed in this neighbourhood, and with 99 out of every 100 in any other district where the new law has come into operation.

The good effect upon the higher classes is not, in my opinion, the least of the benefits derived from this important and valuable measure. A nobleman, chairman of a board of guardians, of which a friend of mine is a member, said he felt it his duty to declare, that he considered the Poor Law Amendment Act the most useful piece of legislation that had been brought out in his day, and that he was especially thankful to its framers for having been the means of bringing him into contact with a class of men, with whom he was before comparatively little acquainted, and that he had been enabled to judge how well qualified his brother guardians were to discharge those important trusts committed to them, how closely allied were the interests of landlords and tenants, and how usefully they might combine their exertions to promote the temporal welfare and moral improvement of the poorer classes, into whose real wants and actual condition he had gained a clearer insight since he became a guardian of the poor, than during the whole of his former life. These are the sentiments, though not perhaps the exact words, of a very amiable man, whose political opinions are at variance with those of the party who originated the measure. The effect has been good upon the middle classes and rate-payers; they are thankful to be in a measure relieved from a burthen that was becoming intolerable; parochial officers are released from a great individual responsibility, and the farmer who is willing to employ sufficient labour can procure better labourers, and is not hampered with roundsmen, who were worse than useless. But the class most benefitted is the industrious and provident poor. Their labour is of more value to them, they are now reaping the benefit of an established character, because the farmer, not compelled to employ inferior labourers to keep them off the parish books, of course takes the best. We are no longer afraid to let the labourer know he is worthy of his hire, and to make a distinction in wages by paying a man according to his merit. In my small parish we were always compelled to employ the parishioners of adjoining parishes to have our work efficiently done, though at the same time we were never without roundsmen; it almost always fell to my lot to have one, often two, and sometimes three. Since the first day we met at Brixworth, I have never heard of a roundsman in our parish, nor has a shilling been dispensed to an able-bodied labourer. Up to that time we had one man who had never had regular work for years; he was paid 11 *s.* per week when upon the round, and I am quite sure his services were not worth four. At the same time I was paying most excellent labourers 10 *s.* None but the occupier of land could understand the nuisance of roundsmen, and the labour-rate system was worse. If the man to whom I have alluded had gone to a magistrate, he would have ordered him 11 *s.* a week or work. The prognostications of some people, that much blood would be lost in consequence of the change, has been verified, but I am thankful to say, as far as my experience goes, it has been all bad blood. I am asked whether we ought to attribute the rise in wages and the facility in obtaining employment entirely to the new system, as the improvement in trade and agriculture, has been very great. I am disposed to think we have derived but little assistance from

from any of these; in our county we have no trade or manufacture except shoe-making, and that for some time past has been so good, that those engaged in it have not been a burthen to the parishes. The farmer pays an increase in wages more cheerfully with wheat at 6 *s.* 6 *d.* per bushel than he did when it was 4 *s.* 6 *d.*; still, however, his circumstances are such, that he will economise as much as he can. I am inclined to attribute almost all the merit to the new system; that labour may become more productive, both to the employed and to the employer, is no paradox. If I am living in a parish where there is, or appears to be, surplus labour, I am perhaps obliged to take three labourers at 10 *s.* per week for every 100 acres of land I occupy, which costs me in the year 78 *l.* Every practical farmer will tell you, that two labourers, who (to use your own words) work for wages, will do much more, and do it better, than three who come to you for relief, and two good men are enough for every 100 acres. If I am obliged to give the two good men 12 *s.* per week each, I save 6 *s.* per week, or 16 *l.* per annum; and in fact my land is worth more by 3 *s.* per acre, because my payments are less by that amount. This is a very moderate statement, for, as you know, we were often compelled to pay the man we were obliged to take more wages than he who was a volunteer. This state of things is productive of more comfort and satisfaction than can easily be conceived, and is worth more to the labourer than his 2 *s.* per week, and to the farmer than his saving of 3 *s.* per acre. I could adduce to you many instances where this satisfaction has been expressed by both the classes alluded to.

I have had a man in the midst of harvest, loading a waggon of corn, and when it was about three parts finished, jump off, and declare he would not work another minute, for the clock had struck six, and this in the face of a dozen good fellows who would work for the same money until nine o'clock. They would perhaps remark, "Master, this is a bad state of things;" and I could only reply, that I was convinced it would not exist long. I had no power to prevent this manifest injustice; I was paying my good labourers all I could afford; if I had refused to pay the roundsman, he would have gone to the magistrate, and received as much in the shape of head-money.

Mr. W——, the guardian for ———, says, he perceives a great improvement in the labourers of his parish; formerly, many of them were constantly changing from one employer to another, never remaining long with any, knowing if they were thrown out of work altogether they could fly to the parish. Now they will make some sacrifices to obtain permanent work. Those who were in the decline of life, and refused to work at all, will do something, make themselves useful, and add to their own comfort. Our relieving officer, Carter, states, a man, named Tipler, of Cottesbrook, had for some time received of the parish 8 *s.* per week; the whole was taken off; and he told the overseer the other day that he and his family was never better provided for; what he formerly got from the parish he spent at the beer-house; but now that he worked for his money, he disposed of it to procure comforts for himself and his family."

Mr. S——, the guardian of ———, informs me, that in two or three parishes near him there will be a saving of nearly one-half in the quarter ending 25th March 1836, compared with that of the corresponding quarter of the former year, and that, as far as he is able to judge, without a single case of oppression.

He adds, it is more difficult for farmers to get labourers than for labourers to find employers. Three months ago I inquired in three parishes, which were last year overwhelmed with surplus labourers, for a man to work for me upon land close by, without being able to obtain one. Some days afterwards a man came to me, and I engaged to give him 10 *s.* a week, but he left me after three days, and said he had got a better job. I know another, only 33 years of age, who had long been a pauper and a roundsman, so soon as he saw how the new system was working, he set to and learnt a trade, and now supports himself, his wife and three children. Another, who had always been a worthless, idle and abandoned character, met with a serious accident, and was promptly attended by the relieving officer, and supplied with every thing that was necessary; upon his recovery, he said the new law was a good thing; he went to the relieving officer, thanked him for his attention to him while he was disabled, and said, now that he was able, he would try to support himself, and he has steadfastly and cheerfully abided by his resolution.

The new poor laws are unquestionably the greatest boon that has been given to the landed interest for years; but whatever relief it may give to tenants must continue for some time before they are compensated for the grievous inflictions arising out of the old system.

Yours, &c.

Chapel Brompton, 28 May 1836. *John Beasley.*

The Rev. H. W. Sitwell

Our sick-club has succeeded far beyond my most sanguine expectations, and all the male heads of families whom the rules would admit, four only excepted, have joined it. I consider that it has curtailed the parish expenses at least one-sixth. The charge of the sick for the year previous to its establishment was 45 *l.*, whilst in the three succeeding years it has stood 21 *l.* 4 *s.*, 9 *l.* 7 *s.*, 1 *l.* 17 *s.*; and it is remarkable to observe the change that has taken place in those who have not hitherto belonged to it, as well as in those who have. On referring to the parish books, it may be seen that few of our labourers scrupled at receiving relief in very short periods of sickness. One man I find charged "1 *s.* 6 *d.*, ill one day;" whereas in the three years in which our club has existed not a single able-bodied man has applied for relief in sickness, although several who did not belong to it have been laid up for a considerable time; and I conclude they have felt ashamed of asking for that which their more provident neighbours had put themselves above requiring. The applications to the parish doctor have likewise become singularly infrequent, whilst there is a growing dis-

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position amongst the labourers to call in a medical man on their own account. I fear, however, that the quacks come in for their full share of this new branch of practice, and that they will continue to do so until some well-devised and economical plan of medical clubs is established. The fear of a bill of unknown length and breadth will drive them to this; and the medical clubs in our neighbourhood are far too expensive to attract country members. Until we are furnished with a better plan, we have set up a medicine chest, from which all are supplied who will pay the medical man's journey, a small fund having been raised to supply the medicines, and to defray the medical man's charge for compounding them.

Although I can look upon the improved circumstances of the people of this place, and their increasing comforts, with great satisfaction, I am fully sensible that infinite caution is necessary, lest the method of placing any advantage within their reach should become detrimental to the interests of the parish, and ultimately to the labouring classes themselves. Our endowed charities I fear are greatly so. With almshouses to which all are expectants, few it may be supposed will make provision for old age. A fund arising from land set out at the enclosure of this parish for the maintenance and support of poor persons, and which supplies to every inhabitant householder 15*s.* per annum, in many instances only swells the cottage rent by that amount; whilst the frauds committed on the parish in order to retain or procure a settlement are beyond calculation. A young man in an adjoining parish having lost his leg, our almshouses offered him a most tempting asylum; to gain his settlement he purchased the short remainder of the lease of a cottage; the reserved rent was 4*l.*; for the lease he gave 30*l.*; the writings could not have cost him less than 3*l.* more; and at the end of the year, the parishioners, finding the same title was likely to be made a channel for transferring to them the paupers of the adjoining parishes, purchased the lease for 20*l.*, the man having sunk 13*l.* in gaining his settlement. To show the extent to which the labouring classes are in the habit of transferring their settlements from a parish without charities to one in which they abound, it is only necessary to contrast the condition of this and the nearest adjoining parish, similarly circumstanced in all other respects except charities, the one having none, the other endowed to the amount of 300*l.* per annum. In the last there are 63 male heads of families living by labour, all of whom, with one only exception, belong to the place; and there are many families besides (15 known) living in the adjoining parishes. In the former, out of 25 male heads of resident families, only 11 belong to the place, and they have not a single individual belonging to them in the adjoining parishes.

I am, &c.,

Leamington-Hastings, 30 May 1836. *H. W. Sitwell.*

— No. 16. —

REPORT on *Berks, Oxon,* and part of *Gloucester*; and of Operations in *Nottingham* and *Lincoln,* by *Edward Gulson,* Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

To the Board of Poor Law Commissioners.

No. 16.
Report of
E. Gulson, Esq.

Gentlemen, 20 July 1836.

In obedience to your instructions that I should communicate any facts worthy of notice, which have come under my observation, for the purpose of being embodied in your Second Annual Report to Parliament, I beg to state, that having completed the arrangement of the Unions in Berks, Oxon, and that part of Gloucestershire committed to my charge, and having since been removed from that district in which the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act were first introduced, I am not able to trace out to you those effects and results which personal observation would doubtless have enabled me to do, had I remained in a district where the new system has been some considerable time in operation. If, indeed, I were to attempt so to do upon the testimony of those who, either from their official capacity, or residence in the Unions, are best able to assist me, I should take out of the hands of my colleague, Mr. Stevens, who is now employed in those counties, that opportunity of showing the results in this the first district in which the provisions of the Act were carried into execution.

Thame Union.

I have, however, great pleasure in laying before you the following testimony, which I have received from C. J. B. Hamilton, esq., the able chairman of Thame Union, an Union in which the difficulties to be surmounted, and the prejudices to be encountered, were perhaps greater than in any other portion of the counties in which I have been employed:

"1 July 1836. * * * That the change which has been effected works well for owner, occupier and labourer, I am perfectly satisfied and prepared to show; and I arrive at this conclusion, not only from the observations which I am enabled to make at the weekly meetings of the board of guardians, where the applications for relief are gradually diminishing, but from the frequent communications I have had upon the subject with many gentlemen, clergy and yeomen residing in the Union. They state generally that many labourers, who formerly were content with parish work and parish pay, now look about and obtain employment elsewhere; and it is a general remark in this neighbourhood, that the manners and morals of that class of the community are evidently improving.

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"The following Statement will show the saving that has been effected in the expenditure, as regards the parish of Thame, taking corresponding quarters for the last four years:

——	Quarter ending March 1833.	Quarter ending March 1834.	Quarter ending March 1835.	Quarter ending March 1836.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Out-relief	552 10 11	476 12 3	404 15 –	278 7 1
Labour	869 7 11	842 15 1	593 11 1	91 5 2
Workhouse maintenance	87 15 –	78 – –	80 – –	77 5 9
Medical charges	65 14 4	68 15 8	44 2 1	—
Salaries	13 15 –	13 15 –	13 15 –	—
Establishment charges	—	—	—	43 2 –
Surveyor's rate	—	—	—	200 – –
Total Expenditure for Quarters	1,589 3 2	1,479 18 –	1,136 3 2	690 – –

"But Thame, it may be said, from its locality, is a favoured parish; we will therefore see how accounts stand in respect to the whole Union.

"The average expenditure for three years, before the operation of the New Poor Law Act, was, in round numbers, about 19,000*l.* per annum, or 4,750*l.* per quarter; the expenditure, including all the establishment charges, for the quarter ending the 25th of March 1836, always the heaviest in the year, was 2,200*l.*, being a saving upon the quarter of considerably more than one-half.

"You are aware that the workhouse is not yet finished, and until that building is ready for the reception of paupers, we cannot carry out the system to its full extent; but as far as we possibly can, we have, in all matters relating to the relief of the poor, acted in strict accordance with the rules laid down by the Commissioners.

"I am happy to say the *ex-officio* guardians, 15 in number, and the elected guardians, 38 in number, pull well together, and the weekly meetings are always well attended; to this, and a steady adherence to the mode of relief, I attribute the beneficial change that has taken place.

"The rate-payer is satisfied by the less frequent calls of the collector, and the pauper generally admits that the punctuality with which relief is afforded, enabling him to lay out his money where he pleases, and to more advantage, makes amends for any reduction which has taken place in his allowance.

"I have reason to hope that we shall shortly have a benefit club for the whole Union, from which I expect the best results. We have established a medical club at Thame, which is going on most prosperously.

"You will perceive, by the enclosed letter to myself from Mr. William Wall, of Thame, the vice-chairman of the Union, that the opinions I have here expressed are in accordance with his. That gentleman, for some time, served the office of overseer in his parish, and, during that period, effected a very considerable saving in the expenditure; and I have so high an opinion of his practical knowledge and information on all subjects connected with the management of the poor, that I have sent it to you with my letter, as an appendix which, I am sure, you will consider valuable. (signed) *C. J. B. Hamilton.*"

Vice-Chairman.

"24 June 1836.—As to the working of the Poor Law Amendment Act in this Union, I beg leave to state that it has answered my fullest expectations, and particularly as we do not at present possess that essentially requisite appendage, a workhouse, and consequently our management still remains comparatively inefficient; it has, however, thus far worked to the satisfaction of its most sanguine friends, both as regards the saving effected to the rate-payer, and the absence of injury to the condition of the old and infirm, or those classes who really deserve assistance. Individuals who were prejudiced against the Bill, are now convinced that its operation has not produced that hardship and misery they had anticipated; on the contrary, that it will eventually prove a benefit to all classes, except the sturdy, idle vagabond, who will not work when he can get employment, and the beer-shop-keeper, who, under the old system, received the greater part of the wages paid to the pauper for his idleness.

"The industrious and independent labourer now finds that his character is of some service to him, and that he can obtain employment more regularly and at better wages than the man of more idle and dissolute habits; and the latter, finding that he has not that regular lounging place, the parish road or pit, to resort to, whenever he feels so disposed, perceives that it is only by becoming steady and industrious that he can hope to find encouragement, and obtain employment whereby to provide for himself and family.

"I am happy to say that I can myself speak to the good effect the new measure has produced on the habits of many labourers, who, before the passing of the Act, were seldom known to remain in employment, as independent labourers, for a week together, excepting in time of harvest, but who have now been at work for their respective masters for months, and evince an anxious desire to retain their places.

"In the parish of Thame we have established a medical club, and are now about to raise

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a loan fund, both of which institutions I consider most excellent, as well calculated to instil that spirit of independence, so much desired, into the minds of the labouring class.

" The medical club has been in operation only two months, and we have already 211 benefit subscribers, who are, by paying a small sum monthly (from 4*d.* to 8*d.*), according to their families, entitled to medicine and the attendance of any medical man they may prefer.

" A committee has been appointed (of which I am one), to whom the poor may appeal if they conceive themselves neglected, or have any other cause of complaint. I am however happy to say, they appear extremely well satisfied in every respect.

" In consequence of the decrease in the poor-rates, the farmers of this district find themselves enabled to expend more money in labour, and consequently their land is better cultivated, an advantage at once to both landlord and tenant. Thame, Brill, Long Crendon, Little Milton and a few other large parishes have very materially curtailed their expenses, and have greatly mitigated the evils produced by a system of mismanagement, even without that requisite, a workhouse.

" In the absence of such an establishment a great number of that class hitherto termed surplus labourers, have been employed as much as possible by the piece; the result of which is, that in Little Milton, from the beginning of December to the end of March last, the expenditure for labour was 36*l.* 10*s.*, and the materials were disposed of for 48*l.* 15*s.*; so that after paying the rent and damage of land, with other expenses amounting in all to 11*l.*, the parish was minus only 1*s.* 5*d.*

" Before the new system came into operation, this parish was notoriously misgoverned; I have frequently passed through and seen groups of men standing idle in the middle of the village, and I learned it was customary for them to do so every day. Many of the respectable inhabitants were afraid to leave their homes after dark, and those persons who were supposed to have taken any active part at the parish vestries, were constantly liable to have their windows broken, or some damage done to their property. There is now not one able-bodied labourer on the parish, and we have had very few complaints since the formation of the Union.

" In a conversation I had some days since with the Rev. J. S. Barron, of Brill, a magistrate for the county of Bucks, and a most humane and charitable gentleman, he assured me that in his opinion the condition of the industrious poor was in no way worse, and that their morals were certainly improved since the new system had been acted on.

" In confirmation of the above statement I annex the evidence of a few highly respectable yeomen and tradesmen belonging to the Thame Union.

" Mr. *Robert Nixon*, grocer, Thame, a very respectable man, whose trade, from the situation of his shop, lies chiefly among the poor, says, 'I do not sell, I think, quite so many goods as I did before the alteration in the law, but my trade is much more satisfactory, for I formerly trusted numbers of the poor on the faith of their parish pay, but they often deceived me, and having done so, did not return to deal with me; now they come with their money, and buy that which they really require, and pay for it. I do not think the poor are worse off now than before, except a few bad characters who cannot get their money for idling about as they once did. If I want a man for a day or two, I find him much more ready to work, and better behaved than before.'

" Mr. *E. Parsons*, baker, Brill:—'I do not think the new law has made it any worse for my trade, considering that I was formerly obliged to trust a great deal to the poor, and some of the parishes did not pay their paupers for several weeks together.'

" *John Towersey*, shopkeeper, Long Crendon:—'I like the alteration in the law very much; I do not think it has at all injured my shop, and having six acres of land which I occupy, I find a great difference in the rates.'

" Mr. *James Hudson*, an extensive farmer, guardian for Oakley:—'My men work more willingly, are better behaved, and are much better servants altogether since the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and to that I entirely attribute the change.'

" Mr. *J. Watson*, farmer, guardian for Denton:—'I am perfectly satisfied the new poor law has been the means of making the men much better servants, and I do not think the condition of the industrious labourer at all worse than before.'

" Mr. *E. Shrimpton*, farmer, late guardian for Long Crendon:—'I am very certain that the men are a great deal more inclined to work, and better behaved in every respect than they were under the old system of parochial management. The industrious and independent labourer is much better satisfied now he sees the idle fellow, who was formerly loitering about on the parish, is obliged to work as hard as himself. I am sure the condition of the industrious poor is bettered; and I think the small shopkeepers, from the conversation I have held with them, are not injured by the alteration.'

" *John Duffell*, publican, Long Crendon:—'I do not draw half so much beer as I did before the Union; but I have 16 acres of land, and I last year paid but 6*s.* instead of 20*s.* per acre.'

" *John Terry*, Great Hazeley, beer-house keeper:—'I do not draw so much beer as I did by one barrel in three, and I think the men are much more steady than before the alteration took place.'

" I am, &c.

" To C. J. B. Hamilton, Esq. *W. Wall*,
" Chairman of the Thame Union." Vice-Chairman of the Thame Union."

Lincolnshire.

Since I have been employed in this district the whole of the county of Nottingham, and part of the county of Lincoln, have been arranged into Union, and the new measure may be said to be fairly in operation; and although the pressure upon property in these counties

is with some exceptions light as compared with the district in which I was last year engaged, nothing can be more apparent, even here, than the moral improvement to be effected by a careful and vigilant control over the administration of poor-rate.

In some parishes of the county of Lincoln, the administration has been productive of such entire disorganization, that although the pecuniary savings resulting from the introduction of your control will be as great as in any portion of the kingdom, the moral regeneration of the labouring classes which must necessarily follow will, I conceive, far outweigh every other consideration.

Notts.

In Nottinghamshire you are aware that most important remedial measures were long since introduced, and carried out in several districts; at Bingham by the Rev. Mr. Lowe, at Southwell by Mr. Nicholls, and also in the incorporations of Thurgarton and Basford, by which great reductions in the rates have been effected. The particulars of these improvements have been so fully explained in the Reports of the Commissioners of Inquiry, that it is unnecessary for me to enter further into the subject than with a view of showing the inefficiency of the Gilbert's incorporations, as compared with the Unions formed under the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Upon commencing operations in the county of Nottingham, I found that the Thurgarton incorporation, consisting of 49 parishes, more or less detached from each other, some of the parishes lying at a great distance, whilst many others, situated in the very heart of the district, (Southwell for instance), were not included in the incorporation, neither did many of them partake in any degree of the same system of administration. My first efforts were therefore directed to the dissolution of this incorporation, which, for many reasons, became most important to the uniform and economical arrangement of those parishes into Union, which, but for the dissolution, must have been placed in Unions at considerable distances, and in detached parts. By the most valuable and powerful aid of his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, Earl Manvers, Mr. Denison, M. P., Sir Robert Bromley, bart., and other landed proprietors interested in this district, I was enabled to obtain the necessary consent of the guardians, and Thurgarton incorporation was dissolved. The same course became necessary as regarded the incorporation at Basford, and this also was dissolved by consent of the guardians.

The parishes comprised within these associations have since been reunited with others, and a close investigation has been entered into as to the principle adopted, and the quantum of relief afforded to the paupers in receipt of out-door relief. This investigation completely establishes the insufficient control exercised by and inherent in the system pursued in these incorporations. Each parish being at liberty to administer relief, either through the workhouse or otherwise, as appeared best to its officer, the houses of industry had not been sufficiently applied as a test of that necessity which alone ought to constitute a claim to relief, and consequently the administration of the several parishes had been wanting in that uniformity of practice which is morally so effective in repressing pauperism.

In revising the pauper lists of the parishes in the Thurgarton incorporation, I found that the roundsman-system existed in its worst form, and relief was administered in a variety of cases, at a great distance, upon hearsay evidence, and altogether without that vigilant and constant supervision without which the paupers can never be compelled to depend upon their own exertions, or frequent cases of gross imposition be prevented.

Numerous instances, displaying the faulty principle upon which these houses of industry were conducted, presented themselves very forcibly in making the minute investigations consequent upon the introduction of the Union system of relief.

It not unfrequently happened, on my proposal that out-door relief should be discontinued to a pauper of bad character, and maintenance in the workhouse offered in lieu thereof, that the guardians, who had previously acted as such under the incorporation, said, "Oh, but he is too bad for the house; we have never been allowed to use the house for such characters as this." Another would object that the pauper was "too dirty" or "disorderly to be admitted," and state at the same time that they had "been forbidden to make use of the house for such cases." Other instances came before us in which it appeared paupers had been admitted into the house and again discharged to receive out-door relief, because they were too troublesome or turbulent to remain as inmates; they were accordingly dismissed with a weekly allowance as the price of their disorderly conduct.

Among other indications of the absence of that effective control over the expenditure of these establishments which ought to exist, I may mention that, in my first visit to inspect the house at Upton, my attention was attracted by the great waste of fine bread, for which the hog-tub was the receptacle; on inquiry I found that no check of any kind was kept up as to the supply and consumption of provisions, and as this waste too surely proved, in this house of industry, avowedly the refuge for the idle, profligate or destitute, the inmates were fed to repletion.

Many instances of lavish expenditure in the relief afforded to out-door paupers presented themselves both at Upton and Basford, plainly pointing out the absolute necessity of that change which compels the administration of relief to be made upon one uniform system, and surely indicating the inefficiency of the incorporations as a means of effectually checking pauperism.

The house at Basford appears to have been managed rather with a view of obtaining profit from the labour of the paupers, than as a workhouse intended as a test of the necessities of the idle or dissolute, and as an engine for the repression of pauperism. Besides six acres of land upon which the house is erected, 18 acres of ground adjoining have been rented and occupied as a market-garden, upon which a portion of the paupers have been employed, and a regular establishment of carts and horses has been maintained,

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by which to convey the produce of the land to Nottingham market. Thus paupers were entrusted to go to market with fruits and vegetables raised by pauper labour, to sell them for the benefit of the establishment, and to account for the receipts on their return. This mode of employing and entrusting paupers I conceive defeats the main object to be attained by the use of a well-regulated workhouse, that of rendering their labour as paupers less desirable than their labour as independent men, and thus affording some positive test whereby to judge of the reality of their necessities.

Mr. Cowell, in his report upon this district, very justly observes, that "Profit from the labour of paupers is a tempting object, but it is found to elude the grasp." This remark is most truly exemplified by the management at Basford, where no separate account has been kept of the profit or loss upon this gardening trade, all having been merged in one general establishment charge, and by which, as the governor and manager informed me, as far as he could judge, no profit had ever been afforded.

The interest taken by the nobility, gentry and yeomen upon the subject in this district quite equals that of any part of the country in which I have been engaged. A list of the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the Unions, including his Grace the Duke of Portland, chairman of Worksop Union, Earl Spencer, chairman, and Granville Harcourt Vernon, esq., M. P., vice-chairman of the Retford Union, Earl Manvers and Sir Robert Bromley, chairman and vice-chairman of Southwell Union, Sir Robert Heron, Earl Brownlow, Rev. Mr. Lowe, and many others, will at once evince the valuable and cordial assistance rendered to us by all parties in this district.

I cannot close this short statement of my proceedings in these counties without acknowledging the important and efficient aid rendered to us by his Grace the Duke of Rutland, to whose powerful influence I greatly attribute the satisfactory introduction of the measure in the district in which he chiefly resides. The constant attention paid by him to the subject, his unremitting attendance at the board of guardians, of which, being lord lieutenant of a county, and his residence being strictly extra-parochial, he is an elected guardian, his ready co-operation in forwarding the views of the Commission, his firmness and his tender care for the deserving poor, alike entitle him to our warmest thanks, and to the thanks of the community in general. I am, &c. *Edward Gulson.*

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REPORT on the Counties of *Leicester, Derby, Rutland,* and part of *Stafford,* by *Richard Hall,* Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner; with a Supplement.

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Gentlemen, Totteridge, Herts, 16 July 1836.

In presenting to you a report of my proceedings, under your instructions, in the counties of Leicester, Derby, Rutland and Stafford, I must premise that from the shortness of the time elapsed since the principles of the Poor Law Amendment Act have been enforced within this district, I can do little more than point out its suitableness to the circumstances of these counties, and its tendency to correct the evils to which it has been applied.

Previous state of the district.

In the month of September last I entered Leicestershire. The previous state of the county, as described in the report of Mr. Pilkington*, who visited it in 1833, was such as to give it an urgent claim on the attention of the Poor Law Commissioners. Every where the mischievous effects of an essentially vicious system were felt; evidence of the existence of abuses was freely given, while each deponent was anxious to remove from the class of the community to which he belonged, the blame of fostering and perpetuating the mischief. The farmer charged the magistrate as the instigator of his idle and insubordinate servants; the magistrate regarded the farmer as the oppressor of the needy and impotent; the discontented labourer felt himself deprived of the remuneration due to his industrious exertions, and professed himself compelled to extort from the overseer what the niggardliness, injustice and caprice of his employer denied him; while the suspicious employer alleged the immorality and idleness of the labourer as the plea for sending him for support to the dispenser of the parish allowance.

In the meanwhile the resources of the country were wasted, the morality of the populace destroyed, the landlord defrauded, the farmer depressed, the magistrate abused, and the chains of mutual dependence, which should bind society, were either broken asunder or sullenly endured as a galling and almost intolerable burden.

That this general statement of the ills of pauperism is applicable to the county of Leicester, the following facts abundantly demonstrate.

In the parish of Great Wigston land has been suffered to lie uncultivated, in order to escape the payment of poor-rate; in Anstey the poor-rate has sometimes amounted to 32*s.* in the pound. In the 41 parishes which now compose the Market Harborough Union, the expenditure on the poor for the three years ended March 1835 averaged 1 *l.* per head on the population.

A respectable farmer informed me that he once occupied land in Hinckley, for which he paid 40 *l.* rent and 60 *l.* rate.

To

* Report of Commission of Poor Law Inquiry, App. (A.)

To convey a clear idea of the condition of the county of Leicester, its parishes should be divided into two classes, agricultural and manufacturing. Of course in the manufacturing parishes there are also agriculturists, but throughout a large portion of the county the inhabitants derive their maintenance solely from agriculture. It is not easy to assign a reason for the prevalence of manufacture in some places where every house and hovel is full of stocking frames, and the total absence of it in others; unless it be, that in the former, landed property was much subdivided, and was therefore more readily procured for the purpose of building the habitations of the workmen; but this circumstance has had a remarkable influence on the condition of different places.

Manufacturing population.

The population in the manufacturing villages is dense, in the agricultural, thin; for instance, the Blaby Union, being composed chiefly of manufacturing places, contains 22 parishes, 33,179 acres, and a population of 13,117. The Hinckley Union comprises 11 parishes, of similar description, 18,000 acres, and a population of 13,700. While the agricultural Union of Melton Mowbray, includes 54 parishes, 97,000 acres and 18,000 population; and that of Billesdon, 34 parishes, 50,000 acres, with only 6,200 population. The manufacturers are a race altogether distinct from the agriculturists, and differ from them both in physical and moral condition; while the supply of work to the labourer is nearly the same at the same seasons of the year, so that he can form his calculations from time to time with tolerable certainty; the manufacturing workman can never know when the demand for his services is likely to increase or diminish; it depends on that of which he has no information. He is liable to sudden and great reverses; and to him, above all persons living by their labour, habits of providence would be valuable; it is not too much to assert that such habits have been hitherto unknown. With the parish as a resource, the notion of saving has been scouted as folly. In Hinckley alone 1,500 frame-work knitters have applied to the overseer on a Monday morning, having been in full employment up to the preceding Saturday night.

Nor have these serious and ruinous inroads upon the poor-rates been confined to seasons of short work; when the trade was most brisk and hands in request, the parish has proved itself a powerful confederative with the operatives. There are few master manufacturers who have not suffered from the "turn-outs" of their workmen. In the year 1824, there was a general strike among the framework knitters; they paraded the country in bands, compelling all to join them, and directing their menaces as much against the overseers, who hesitated to furnish a maintenance to them and their families during the season of voluntary idleness and insubordination, as against the masters, who were reluctant to comply with their imperious demands for higher wages. It is to this period in the history of the county that I have been most frequently referred by persons who distrusted the ability of a board of guardians to cope with such difficulties; they did not see that the weakness of the parochial system, which threw all the responsibility of withholding relief on individuals, enhanced and prolonged, if it did not create those very difficulties. A *board* can make a stand against exactions, which an *individual officer* dares not try to repel.

But facts have occurred to bring the matter to proof, and to show the efficiency of a board of guardians, acting under circumstances which were always too strong for the control of the parish officers.

Efficiency of boards of guardians.

The frame-work knitters of Hinckley and its vicinity have recently thrown themselves out of work. I am informed that about 2,500 men have submitted to five weeks of severe privation, the fruits of their own misconduct, without having recourse to their parishes for assistance, knowing that to men in their situation the board of guardians would at once deny relief; their own very limited supplies being exhausted, they have returned to work for the same remuneration as they were previously receiving. It is not meant here to blame the workmen for endeavouring to make a good bargain for themselves, but only to assert that injustice is done, when the parish enlists on their side, and when that support in their endeavour, for which they ought to depend entirely on their own resources, is afforded from the poor-rate; a change of system, whereby freedom is secured to the transactions of the employers and the employed, must be beneficial to both parties.

Abuses in manufacturing districts.

I have found abundant traces, in manufacturing parishes, of the same kind of abuses as those which, in agricultural districts, have taken such pernicious effect on the morals and comfort of the lower orders. The hosier, as the farmer, has allowed, or rather invited, the intervention of the parish between his workmen and himself; for instance, in the books of Narborough such items as the following were of constant recurrence: "Paid Mr. ———, of Leicester, for setting John Simon to work, 2*s*." Which means nothing more than that the parish relieved Mr. ———, of Leicester, from the payment of one-fourth of his workman's earnings. In most of these cases I found on inquiry, that the master had first discharged the very man whom he was afterwards bribed by the parish to take into his employ.

The following transaction was very common where employment was found for the paupers in houses of industry. The hosiers turned off their men, the men went straightway to the overseer, and were received into the houses; the parish, with such a number of men at command, took orders for work from the same hosiers, and executed them by means of their discharged workmen at a reduced rate. The workmen are quite alive to the injustice thus inflicted on them; they have at once understood, and cordially approved of, the views entertained by the Commissioners respecting the work to be performed by the inmates of workhouses.

Employment of indoor paupers.

The rate-payers have not been so quick to perceive the impolicy and impropriety of making the parish a manufacturing corporation; their notions of advantage to be derived from confounding wages and relief were too inveterate to yield readily to my arguments; and

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and yet experience has taught many, what reason would prove to all, did not prejudice and self-interest blind them, that the establishment of a manufactory in a workhouse, to be carried on by pauper labour, must be eventually ruinous. Trade is bad, hands are thrown out of work, applications for relief are numerous, and the workhouses are filled. It is clear that the markets, already glutted, will not bear a further supply; more goods are, however, produced, and must be disposed of; prices continue to fall, the period of depression is prolonged, and more and more workmen sink into the condition of paupers, and increase the amount of that unprofitable labour by which the recovery of trade is impeded.

This mischief is caused in the idle expectation of making the paupers earn their maintenance; whereas it frequently happens that the goods thus fabricated are sold at a price considerably below the cost of the materials. In several parishes this lesson has been repeatedly illustrated by fact. In the house of industry at Barrow-upon-Soar, and in the workhouse at Stone, I saw a large stock of machinery, purchased by the parish at a vast expense, useless, and rotting to decay in the dilapidated building erected for its reception. Not that I would have the inmates of workhouses maintained in idleness; every one should be set to do that of which he is capable; but the work should be of such a nature as to be done at all times and seasons; so simple that all may perform it; it should involve no loss to the parish; and should, above all, *not be the usual work of the district*; so as in no way to affect the circumstances of the independent labourer. The productions of the workhouse should never enter the market in competition with the productions of the factory. Grinding corn by handmills for the consumption of those who grind it, and stone-breaking, seem to fulfil nearly all the conditions of beneficial pauper employment. In the houses of industry at Ashby and Shardlow, these principles have been acted on, and cornmills have been used with complete success.

Allowance system.

The allowance system, or the practice of making up the earnings of the framework knitter out of the poor-rate, according to a settled scale, has very generally prevailed, and has produced here as elsewhere its invariable results, low wages and idle workmen, abusive paupers and impoverished rate-payers.

Payment of rents by parish.

The peculiarity of the stocking manufactory, which does not congregate the workmen into large buildings, but leaves them to perform their part, each at his own cottage, has led to the payment of rents by the parish to an enormous amount. At Great Wigston as much as 350*l.* of the annual expenditure is thus accounted for. Speculators have purchased land and built cottages depending on the parish as guarantee for the payment of exorbitant rents. Framework knitters with large families are preferred as tenants, because they bring a heavy burden on the parish, and greatly embarrass the overseer if he permit them to be ejected. In many instances the parish has bought or built cottages, in which the poor are allowed to live rent free. It not unfrequently happens that the parish property is transferred from pauper to pauper, without the overseer being any party to the transaction; the inmate of a parish house will sell his interest in it, and the value of that interest depends mainly on the character for vigilance of those who usually manage the affairs of the parish; mere possession is thought to confer a right to the house, provided it cannot be shown that the previous occupant was forcibly ejected by his successor; the whole transaction is familiarly termed "selling the key," and is a curious remnant of the old practice of "livery of seizin."

The guardians have usually felt a disinclination to enforce the payment of rent by paupers, and some little resistance has occasionally been shown by those who were called upon to pay, but where your regulation forbidding relief by way of rent to certain classes of paupers has been put in force, the results have been curious and highly satisfactory. In Lutterworth, on the promulgation of that order, several tenants of parish houses gave notice to quit, and rented much better cottages, declaring that "if they were to pay at all, they would have a good house for their money, though it cost more." In a few instances paupers have become the purchasers of parish houses, in which they before lived rent free.

Illustrations of abuse.

In the agricultural parishes also, I have observed the germ of all those abuses which, in other counties, have been so fearfully developed; the smallness of the population, as compared with the quantity and quality of the land, has made the burden lighter to the proprietor; but the expenditure, when compared with the population, is in many parishes as great as in the most pauperized districts of England The round or house row system, the scale and allowance, the inattentive vestry, the irresponsible and therefore careless overseer, the idle pauper on the roads, cunningly proportioning his work to the pay he expects, or, as he expresses it, "earning all he gets," might be adduced that pauperism is everywhere essentially the same.

A few facts may be here inserted illustrative of these remarks.

A pauper of Misterton had a freehold devised to him, in the adjoining parish of Lutterworth; he executed a release to the heir at law, convinced that he should be a loser by accepting a gift which would transfer him from an ill to a well-regulated parish.

The parish of Stone, in Staffordshire, is under a local Act, by which 42 guardians were appointed; of these any three can act, and no relief can legally be given but by them. I visited Stone in the 20th week of the year; on examining the minute-book, I discovered that for 15 weeks there had been no attendance; that on three of the remaining five occasions only two guardians were present, so that there had been but two meetings, competent to the discharge of the parish business, during 20 weeks.

At Cranoe and Glooston the overseer received, by way of remuneration, a per-centage on all the money spent on the poor; an excellent provision against any diminution of pauperism in those parishes. It is curious that the pay of the guardians of the Shardlow incorporation is regulated in a similar way by their local Act.

A young unmarried female recently appeared before the board of guardians at Melton, under

under a mistaken notion that she could there affiliate the child to which she was on the point of becoming mother; she had twice before been in similar circumstances. The chairman made some pertinent remarks on her situation, when she indignantly exclaimed, "I should like to see the person who can say anything against my character! I am as hard-working a girl as any in the country, and my mistress is quite at a loss because I must leave her." To any feeling of shame or suspicion of disgrace, she was an utter stranger.

The following is a copy (*verbatim et literatim*) of a letter sent by the overseer of one of the most important parishes in Leicestershire, to a relieving officer:

"17 Jun 1836 Sor I right to you M. Clark, to Let you No that if you Doant Send to me By 25 of Jun for me to pay on to Thomas Ing I tweek A hous for him & must pay the Rent of hit & he Cannot pay mee So if you Doant Send for me to pay on I shall sell him up for Rent Amedly I shall not Stay Annother Day I ham yours J —— S —— of Sheepshead."

But it is unnecessary to dwell longer on this division of my subject. That a change was necessary was universally allowed; and the failure of such expedients as had here and there, and from time to time, been previously tried as remedies, serves to show the want of power, in all uncontrolled local administrations, to bear down the obstacles to permanent amelioration.

The most important remedial measure, spontaneously adopted by many parishes in Leicestershire, Derbyshire, and the adjacent parts of Staffordshire, was the forming themselves into incorporations under Gilbert's Act; and in these incorporations I have found a serious impediment. The caution of the Legislature, in withholding from you the power of dissolving an Union without the consent of two-thirds of its guardians, has imposed upon me the necessity of extorting, from more than 180 persons, their reluctant permission to introduce amongst them a measure intended only for their benefit. I found, at the commencement of my operations, that before the new system could be efficiently established, in only a small part of the county of Leicester, eight incorporations, comprising 115 parishes, must be cleared away.

Gilbert's incorporations.

These incorporations had been most capriciously put together. Their respective parishes were intermingled in the greatest confusion; no principle or plan seems to have been observed in their construction; one or two parishes formed the nucleus; and they admitted or rejected others, just as they expected advantage or apprehended trouble from a connection with them. The inherent defect of such incorporations is now well known. It was rendered evident by the repeated applications to you from the paupers of Kibworth Harcourt and Kibworth Beauchamp (parishes incorporated with Great Glenn), for your official declaration of their right "*to have employment found for them by the parish officer, suited to their capacity, and near their place of abode, without being required to reside in a workhouse*;" a right which, though you did not publicly allow it, you were unable to deny; in fact, the applicants had been taught the true position of paupers in incorporated parishes. But besides this want of power to apply the workhouse as a test of pauperism, the incorporations are defective in all the points which constitute the prominent features of the improved system. Incapable themselves of being moulded into a proper form of management, they are, in all cases, a formidable obstacle in the way of arrangements devised for the benefit of the unincorporated places in their vicinity. Such I have found them; and though I have been tolerably successful in compassing their dissolution, yet it has involved an expense of time and trouble which can hardly be estimated. In one instance I have failed. The incorporation of Barrow-upon-Soar has as yet resisted all the arguments which have prevailed over the scruples of others. Persons interested in the preservation of abuses, and reckless of the means by which the unwelcome approach of improvement was arrested, excited and directed against the guardians the mistaken animosity of the lower orders. Threats, insults and personal violence were used against those who were thought to be well affected towards the new mode of administration; and so bad a feeling was industriously fomented, that I felt it my duty to suspend my operations in that part of the county.

At the same time, gentlemen, I can confidently state that the change, when made, will have the concurrence of all the unprejudiced and intelligent inhabitants of these parishes, which are, and have been, amongst the worst conducted in the county. More than half the guardians have given me their consent, in defiance of all intimidation; several others have confessed that nothing but fear of the consequences of their compliance restrains them from doing the same; and numbers of respectable rate-payers have expressed their astonishment and regret that the introduction of a system, whence such benefits may reasonably be expected, should have been left to depend, in any way, on the consent of those who will not, or dare not, avow their approbation of it.

I have been made to feel most sensibly the want of some adequate means of overcoming an obstruction, so unreasonably permitted to remain in the way of the Commissioners; I say unreasonably, for, did any doubt exist as to the expediency of dissolving the incorporations, it might be well to make the process slow, to make success the end only of a long protracted contest, in the course of which every possible argument might be adduced on both sides, every weapon, offensive and defensive, fully put to the proof, so that whichever way the event turned out, the mouth of the defeated party should be for ever closed. But since all, who are unbiassed and competent to judge, pronounce that these incorporations *must be* dissolved, since it has been shown that the parishes included in them exhibit no beneficial results (excepting so far as the provisions of Gilbert's Act have been neglected, and its spirit violated by practices now sanctioned by the Poor Law Amendment Act); since, on more correct views of pauper legislation, the principle of their statute, as to relief in the workhouse, is seen to be radically erroneous; since their machinery is inade-

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quate to the economical and discriminating administration of out-door relief; since the advantage of uniformity of system is apparent; since the local circumstances and grouping of the incorporations are found to curtail and impair the bordering Unions; and, finally, since the Unions have proved their sufficiency to effect what the old incorporations attempted in vain, why invest that which is useless with a power to resist improvement? Why encourage those to assume an attitude of defiance, whose submission is sought only as being advantageous to themselves? Why fortify them in a position detrimental to their own well-being?

As the law now stands, the consent of a certain number of individuals must be gained before an incorporation, under Gilbert's Act, or, in fact, any Union of parishes, can be dissolved; that is to say, a certain number of persons must be made to see that their condition will be improved when they are at the free disposal of the Poor Law Commissioners, and they must be induced to acknowledge their conviction. For many reasons these two points are very difficult to accomplish.

In the first place, the guardians of rural parishes are almost always uneducated and prejudiced persons; many of them are unable to write their own names. I have usually found arguments of a general nature fail with them, because totally unintelligible; something merely local, or directly personal must be urged. It very rarely happens that a guardian will give his consent without a reference to his fellow parishioners, in whose employ he considers himself to be; and thus the difficulties of the case are multiplied tenfold, as it is necessary to convince at the parish meeting as many persons as would constitute a majority of the board of guardians. At these meetings I have commonly found it necessary to attend, it being impossible to divine the objections which would be urged, and stand unrefuted in my absence. On these occasions, as if delighted with their power of objecting, the rate-payers will ransack their brains to exercise it to the utmost, so numerous are their objections, and so strange.

Very frequently the parishioners refuse or neglect to meet, when invited to discuss the dissolution of an incorporation to which from interest or habit they are attached. I have been by appointment three times to one parish, and as often failed of seeing the influential rate-payers; it will at once be perceived, that to compel the attendance of men so disposed by regular summonses, would not further the business. The guardian, of course, avails himself of this difficulty, and withholds his consent. I have known a parish meeting break up without decision, on account of the absence of one leading individual, and I have been obliged to arrange a special interview with him. In this way much valuable time is consumed.

In the second place, supposing the guardian has been made to see the matter in its true bearings, it is difficult to induce him to confess his conviction. Guardians are all paid more or less; their salaries vary from 2 *l.* to 20 *l.* a year. The officers of the 25 parishes, composing the incorporation of Barrow-upon-Soar, receive annually more than 350 *l.* Now, if a guardian be a very small rate-payer, he is extremely unwilling to give up his salary; if his contribution to the rate be considerable, his salary is proportionably large, and indemnifies him for what he loses by the continuance of a faulty system; besides, the advantage is certain and direct. There is much connected with the management of an incorporation to please persons in that class of life from which the guardians are usually chosen. The monthly meeting at the house of industry is followed by a dinner at the public expense; the fines for non-attendance are applied to an annual feast; and should the house be situated in a market town, the farmer guardian has the fourth part of his market expenses paid. Add to all this, the secret objection to retrenchment and reformation, which the short-sighted and self-interested farmer almost always entertains, and the complacent satisfaction with which he regards his own expedients and maxims, and it must be plain that a powerful bias exists against the dissolution of an incorporation.

It would appear that the Legislature hesitated to vest the requisite power in the Commissioners, from an apprehension that it might appear too arbitrary, and thus excite discontent and opposition; and also because it might lead to the disturbance of existing pecuniary arrangements. On the latter point I need only observe, that the power of appropriating the property of single parishes, together with that subsequently conferred, of ordering compensation for the use of it, involves quite as much interference with existing arrangements as the authority which the Government has thought fit to withhold; and the way in which the one has been exercised is a guarantee that the other would not be abused. I am sure that, in many instances, the equitable directions of the Commissioners have put an end to pecuniary embarrassments, removed much dissatisfaction, and extricated many parishes from unfair and injurious engagements. I am convinced that no opposition would be excited against the Commission by this extension of its powers. Many guardians have learned from me, for the first time, that they were on a footing above other parish officers, and, without at all comprehending the reason of this distinction, have availed themselves readily of their privilege. They have come to me to learn what was to be done with them, and have been astonished to find that their destination depended in any degree on themselves; prepared to bow to the decision of the Commissioner, they were surprised at seeing him in an attitude of supplication for their permission to act. The unincorporated parishes will be pleased at a change reducing all to the same rank; the others would give up without difficulty or murmur a distinction, the loss of which would make them no worse off than their neighbours, a privilege which, in many instances, they possess without knowing it, and for the preservation of which they would be unable to advance a single argument.

In pleading for the extension of the power of the Commissioners over incorporated parishes,

parishes, I am advocating, not only the cause of the Commission, but that of the public; at least half the time that I have passed in my present district has been consumed in merely clearing the ground, and much injury is caused by thus prolonging the period of transition from bad to good administration.

Rutland.

The county of Rutland is entirely agricultural; its parishes show a great variety of condition; in a few, the expenditure has been very great; in many, it has been about the average amount; in some, judicious management has kept it low. I must, in justice to the magistrates of Rutlandshire, state, that in that county alone, of all that I have visited, has the annual audit of accounts by them been anything but an useless form; nowhere else have I seen overseers' books so well kept, because there only have they been audited according to law.

Audit of accounts.

I would here observe, that though much good has been done by the appointment under your direction of regular auditors for every Union, experience has shown me that the measure is as yet incomplete. The parties concerned in parish management are already on the alert to devise means of evading the audit; and unless the auditor's functions are extended over *all parochial rates*, those devices will succeed, and not only will much expense be incurred by the continuance of all kinds of illegal and improper charges, but the returns officially published will be delusive as to the state of the country. I am auditor of the Lutterworth Union, and such conversations as the following have repeatedly taken place between the overseers and myself during my examination of their accounts: "Pray, Sir, how are we to be paid for our trouble?—You must serve for nothing; no charge for lost time or personal expenses is legal, nor can it be allowed." "I suppose then we may agree to pay ourselves out of the road-rate; will that be audited too, Sir?" Another has asked, "How are we to pay our mole-catcher?—Just as you pay any other man whom you employ." "Oh, Sir, that will never do! we must put it into some rate that you know nothing about!" In one parish I know that the guardian receives a regular salary from the church-rate. To all this it may be urged that such flagrant violations of the law, and frauds upon the public, can never be long permitted, considering that any rate-payer will have it in his power to put a stop to them. I answer, the same security has long existed against abusive expenditure of the poor-rates, and yet the overseers' books are full of items that have as little to do with the relief of the indigent and impotent as mole-catching with the repair of the roads, or a guardian's salary with that of the church.

Derbyshire.

I have as yet made but little inquiry within the county of Derby; a barrier is there raised against me, which I trust the strong arm of the Government will before long throw down. Almost all the parishes of South Derbyshire are incorporated under Gilbert's or a local Act, as are many also in the northern division.

Stoke-upon-Trent.

In consequence of the numerous and urgent applications received by your Board from various persons connected with the parish of Stoke-upon-Trent, in Staffordshire, I was desired to proceed thither in the month of March last, in order to investigate its condition, and suggest such measures as might remedy the evils under which it was labouring. As the circumstances of this important parish were peculiar, and exhibited in a striking manner the feebleness and insufficiency of the old law, I may, I trust, be permitted to dwell on them at some length.

Stoke-upon-Trent is by far the largest and most populous parish of the district usually denominated the Potteries; its inhabitants now amount to about 45,000. It was managed by a select vestry under Sturges Bourne's Act, and is provided with a workhouse, constructed on the plan of Mr. Becher, of Southwell, for the accommodation of 500 inmates, duly classified. But notwithstanding these defences against the inroads of pauperism, its situation at the commencement of this year was thought, by many persons deeply interested in its welfare, to be so critical, that the immediate interference of the Poor Law Commissioners was importunately prayed for as that which alone could save it from utter ruin. I found it necessary to look a little below the surface of affairs to discover the reasonableness of this apprehension; it was founded on a knowledge of the peculiar structure of society in this little commonwealth, of the slender barriers opposed by the law to the encroachments of a body of daily increasing influence, I mean the confederated workmen, and of the little facility afforded by the old system of repressing those irregularities, and correcting those abuses, whence they derived a pretext beneath which to cloak their real views.

The inhabitants of Stoke might be conveniently divided into four classes; the first, comprising a few manufacturers of immense wealth, who took no part in parochial business; the second, consisting of manufacturers less wealthy than the former, men of great intelligence and respectability, giving employment to a vast number of workmen, and disposed to resume the active station in the management of the parish which they once occupied; the third, composed of smaller manufacturers and tradesmen, on whom the control of the parish had devolved when I visited them; and the fourth, made up of working men, or, as they style themselves, the operatives. Of these four classes the last is the best defined, and, as it is nearly identical with the trades' union, so far organized as to bring its weight to bear directly upon the decision of any question affecting its interests. The unionists in Stoke and Burslem are about 8,000 in number, of whom three-fourths belong to Stoke. This confederacy, which was on the decline, had recently been gathering strength, and had advanced to the point of forcing workmen to enrol themselves in its ranks. Its arbitrary proceedings on some late occasions had led to a manifesto on the part of the masters, so that when I went to Stoke, the two parties, masters and servants, might be said to be measuring their strength against each other, and it was become a question of vital importance which of them was to have the command of the parochial resources.

Staffordshire.

I have been informed, that the political opinions of Mr. Owen have been successfully disseminated

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disseminated by himself and his emissaries throughout the Potteries, and form the creed of the Trades' Union. Every modification of religious opinion has its adherents in the parish of Stoke; so that, in addition to the ordinary causes of mismanagement, political division and sectarian animosity had contributed to embroil its affairs. No party was willing that the reins of power should be held by another. The first of the classes I have enumerated have long since retired from the contest altogether; the second endeavoured about four years since to exercise some beneficial control, but were shortly forced by secret manœuvre and avowed opposition to relinquish the hopeless undertaking; the third, from which the last vestry was selected, had incurred the dislike of all the others; and the fourth class had openly proclaimed their determination to seize the favourable conjuncture, and wrest the power from them, their object being to secure to themselves the disposal of the parish funds in case of an open rupture with their employers. How ruinous the success of this scheme would have been may be inferred from the effect already produced on the administration of the poor-rate by the proceedings of this formidable body; a few instances will suffice.

A manufacturer had occasion to get some workmen committed to prison for a breach of contract; their families applied for relief, it was refused; an intimation was immediately given, that unless the relief demanded was given the works of the manufacturer would be stopped. He was intimidated, and, being a select vestryman, the point was yielded to this menace. Thus the parish was made to avert the consequences of misbehaviour in a matter with which the parish had nothing to do.

The printers in one of the manufactories "turned out," because dissatisfied with a pattern they were required to execute. The workmen in the other departments immediately left the establishment and demanded parish relief, urging as a plea, that their indigence was not through their own fault, the desertion of their comrades having prevented the work coming into their hands. It was not thought prudent to refuse their demand.

An usual form of contract between the lesser manufacturers and their men is, an engagement, during a certain period, whenever work is to be had. The men are thus induced to work hard when an order is to be executed, on an understanding, that when employment is slack, recourse is to be had to the parish, which is unable to meet their request with an allegation that they are in any one's employ.

But in every branch of the administration of affairs in Stoke the hand of reformation was wanted; abuses had crept in every where: for instance, the governor of the workhouse had long been contractor for the supplies, and was allowed the earnings of the paupers; the consequences of this arrangement were, 1st, an unnecessary accumulation of inmates in the house, for when the practice was discontinued the number immediately fell from 210 to 136; 2d, a great discrepancy in the diet, for while he did not care to stint and starve the aged, and those who could not work, it was his interest to allure the stout and able-bodied to the establishment, and maintain them there in good working condition.

The classification in the house was so imperfect, that three unmarried females became pregnant in it last year.

The parish accounts were in a state that almost defied investigation; two officers were convicted of embezzlement during the last 18 months. The late cashier absconded, and his successor discovered that there had been no entry of receipts for 16 weeks.

The collection of the rates was conducted most fraudulently; 30 per cent. was usually lost, and no rate had been regularly balanced and closed for many years. It was by favour shown in this way that the collectors managed to retain their places, or rather it was the fear of being turned out of office that made them dishonest. When I first went to Stoke, an attempt had just been made to levy a fifth rate for the current year, while only a quarter of the fourth rate had been collected; those who would were thus made to pay for those who would not.

The four overseers themselves paid the poor in the four principal townships without any uniform system: hence arose great variations in the scale of relief; and it was observable, that in one of the townships where the then overseer kept a provision shop the rate of allowance was 25 per cent. higher than in the others.

The main defect in the late system of government, which permitted the growth of the abuses I have been instancing, the chief point where its inapplicability to the circumstances of the parish was shown, was the want of direct control on the part of the managing body over its officers; the necessity of applying to the great body of rate-payers at public meetings whenever it was thought expedient to appoint or discharge a paid officer, led to perpetual dissension between the select vestry and their servants; the latter refused to execute orders which they thought might be disagreeable to their *real* masters, the rate-payers at large, and treated the threats and reprimands of their *nominal* masters, the select vestry, with utter contempt; and when the latter appealed to a general meeting, in order to procure the dismissal of a corrupt or refractory servant, angry recrimination and vulgar abuse were substituted for a calm and regular inquiry into alleged delinquencies. The officer also, having always been careful to secure friends among his judges, was by their vote and influence uniformly continued in the situation whenever it was attempted to dismiss him. Such has been the result on every such occasion. After a fruitless attempt to introduce a more rational practice, at a public meeting in November last, it was resolved to apply for the attendance of an Assistant Commissioner without delay.

This grievance was not confined to Stoke, though it was there heightened by being associated with others; it was also felt at Newcastle, Wolstanton and Burslem; want of vigour and independence in the managing body, and want of proper control over the paid officers, was the prominent evil in them all. During my inquiries among them, complaints were repeatedly made to me of the corrupt and disorderly conduct of those officials. "Why do you

you not get rid of the delinquent?" I asked; "I wish we could," was the invariable reply, "but he has too many friends at the general meeting."

Control of paid officers.

The wisdom of that clause in the Poor Law Amendment Act, whence you derive the power of regulating the salaries of paid officers, of peremptorily dismissing such as are convicted of having betrayed their trust, will be, I am sure, most readily acknowledged in parishes situated like those I have here mentioned. Offices will no longer be held at the pleasure of those who are interested in the preservation of fraud and corruption; they will be no longer the reward of dishonesty, no longer closed against all who will not sacrifice integrity to popularity. At Stoke-upon-Trent and the neighbouring parishes, it was at once seen that in the power thus vested in the Poor Law Commissioners, is to be found a guarantee for the establishment and maintenance of efficient parochial government, based on sound principles.

For reasons which need not here be detailed, it did not appear desirable to unite any parishes with Stoke, it has therefore been placed alone under a board of guardians. The gentlemen to whom the choice of the rate-payers has intrusted the care of their interests, have entered upon the discharge of their duty in a manner which gives an earnest of success; they have filled up with impartiality every appointment which the orders of the Poor Law Commissioners required them to make; they have addressed themselves with determination to the work of reforming all abuses, and have, by the considerate moderation and uprightness of their proceedings, won the confidence of their fellow-parishioners.

With regard to the other parts of the northern division of Staffordshire I have only to observe, that the utility of the workhouse, as a test of pauperism, is everywhere perceived, and that there are now provided quite as many houses as are or will be required. The custom of renting a share in a workhouse is very general, and will facilitate the formation of Unions under your orders, inasmuch as the parishes have thus testified their approbation of the main feature of your system, and will readily concur in an arrangement, promising them the most complete and efficient enjoyment of the advantage they have been seeking. Able-bodied pauperism has never gained much strength in North Staffordshire, but it has been proved to the rate-payers that their unassisted endeavours can with difficulty repress the rising evil; that the seed is there, and will, if unheeded, spring up into rapid maturity. From the parishes of Stone and Cheadle, applications for assistance have been made to your board since the establishment of the new system at Stoke; its tranquillizing and satisfactory effect on that hitherto turbulent and divided parish has been evidence to the neighbouring places of its soundness and its practicability. Unfortunately several incorporations under Gilbert's Act extend into North Staffordshire; they have retarded, and of course will materially retard, the progress of improvement. Loudly have several parishes complained to me that they cannot escape at will from a connexion, now seen to be injurious, though formerly thought to be beneficial. In the hope that the Legislature will soon be induced to remove the shackles from your hands, I have not yet recommended the declarations of any Unions in North Staffordshire, being unwilling to present them in a maimed, imperfect shape; had the incorporations not existed, or had you been able to deal summarily with them, as with unincorporated places, your rules and regulations would before this have been in force throughout the whole of that portion of the district confided to my charge.

The borough of Leicester has so very lately been declared an Union for workhouse purposes, that the arrangements for carrying your orders and regulations into effect are not yet completed. I may, however, confidently augur well of the success of that Union, from the temper which persons of all parties in Leicester have shown towards the measure, and the courtesy with which I have been uniformly treated in my intercourse with them. Information on all points has been freely given; the evils and defects of the existing system were readily acknowledged, and the various remedial alterations proposed by me were discussed in the best possible spirit. The guardians have met and proceeded cheerfully to the despatch of business, feeling that their relation with your board is not maintained for the purpose of compelling them to be the unwilling instruments of establishing a system that they disapprove, but in order to strengthen and protect them in the discharge of their important and beneficial duties.

Measures taken under the Commission.

Such, gentlemen, is a sketch of some of the prominent circumstances of the district in which I have been acting. To particularize, in every instance, the mode in which existing evils are met by corresponding remedial provisions in the Poor Law Amendment Act, would be to weary you with repetition and useless detail. It remains to state what steps have been taken at my suggestion to bring those provisions to bear more directly upon them.

Eleven Unions, comprising 320 parishes and places, have been declared by you, on my investigation and reports, in the counties of Leicester and Rutland; in all of which boards of guardians have been elected, and are now cheerfully and actively engaged in the administration of the law according to your regulations. In five of these Unions there exists adequate workhouse accommodation. In the other six, steps have been taken to provide that necessary auxiliary. No outbreak of popular feeling has occurred to impede seriously the execution of the orders of the guardians, or prevent the due observance of your rules and regulations. Some discontent has been manifested on the first introduction of relief in kind in one or two Unions, and, as usual, endeavours were made by keepers of beer-shops and tradesmen, who fancied themselves injured, to foment disturbance. The vigour of the magistrates, who promptly visited with proper severity some overt acts of insubordination, defeated those endeavours, and the poor soon found that they were no sufferers; this they testified in several places, by asking of the relieving officers a greater proportion of the relief allowed them by the guardians in kind. It is worthy of remark, that all resistance to the measure on the part of the poor has occurred on the very first establishment of the new system, and that when

Their effects.

when once put down, it has never been repeated; whence may fairly be inferred that it arose from groundless apprehension, not from actual suffering. Able-bodied pauperism has nearly disappeared from those Unions which have existed as long as three months; in the Harborough Union of 41 parishes, the diminution of pauper cases has been so great, that the guardians have discharged one of the three relieving officers, who at first were required for the due transaction of business. The number of inmates in the workhouses is in no case greater than before the Unions were formed; and those who are relieved in them express themselves contented with their lot, and the treatment they receive, being all aged and impotent persons, to whom the workhouse is an asylum in their distress.

Medical relief.

In no department have more beneficial changes been wrought than in the medical relief. The guardians have everywhere acted judiciously on the principle of throwing the labourer as much as possible on his own resources. Hence the remuneration to the medical officer appears low; yet the most respectable practitioners have expressed to me, that under the existing system of calling upon them for attendance on paupers, they are perfectly satisfied with it. The guardians of the Lutterworth Union entered into a contract with their medical officers, from which you thought fit to withhold your sanction, considering the terms too high, at the same time you permitted them to try it provisionally for three months. I have lately had the satisfaction of hearing from one of the contractors, a gentleman in excellent practice, that he will be able, at the termination of the quarter, to make a considerable deduction from his original proposal. The result of this is the universal establishment of sick-clubs, which will, in all probability, shortly put an end to the whole system of parish medical contracts, a system alike injurious to the poor and unprofitable and degrading to the members of the profession.

I have taken the liberty of appending in a supplement to this Report a few extracts from letters addressed to me by gentlemen connected with some of the Unions.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners of England and Wales.

Richard Hall.

Supplement to Mr. Hall's Report.

Extract from a Letter from the Rev. *G. E. Gillett*, J. P. of Waltham, in the Union of *Melton Mowbray.*

"I have had some conversation with different individuals since I saw you, and I have no hesitation in saying, that in this parish (viz. Waltham), and I believe I might say the same of others, few labourers are employed upon the roads in comparison with former years, and many more upon the land. Several causes are assigned for this, and among the most common, exclusive of the operation of the new poor law, are these two: 1st. The recent advance in the price of agricultural produce. 2d. The increased demand for labour upon railroads, and in the manufacturing districts. With respect to the former it is true, that the price of agricultural produce has of late rapidly advanced; but referring to former years when prices were higher than they now are (and that without a preceding period of such excessive depression), there does not appear then to have been such a general demand for labour as that which exists at present. As to the second cause assigned, there is no doubt at the present moment a great demand for labour upon the railroads, but I do not find that more than one labourer has left this parish, and, therefore, so far as we are concerned, we may very safely say that such demand has not affected us. I know of no other probable cause for the present absorption of agricultural labour on the land, but the operation of the poor law. My conviction is, that the Union has already operated, and, if temperately conducted, will continue to operate beneficially, both upon the farmer and the labourer. The uncertainty of finding immediate employment elsewhere if they disagree with their masters, has, I am assured, produced a marked improvement in the labourers. On the other hand, there is not, so to speak, a constant supply of labourers in the market. The surveyor of the roads employs as many men as he requires, and no more; he will not permit them to leave him for another job, and return to him at their pleasure, for he wants their services, and pays them by the 'great.' Labourers therefore are not to be had at a moment's notice as heretofore, and during the convenience of the employers, but must be taken on permanently, and this of course the farmer will be better able to do, as the rates (which were expended uselessly in the employment of the able-bodied) are diminished. My deliberate conviction therefore is, that the Union has worked well; that it has operated to the advantage of both farmer and labourer, in some measure compelling the one to employ his men permanently instead of occasionally, and holding out inducements to the other to behave with civility and industry."

The Rev. *R. Palmer*, J. P. of Blaby, says, "All I know is, that the people appear to be contented, and that there seems to be an impulse given to the formation of friendly societies, principally with a view to medical assistance." This refers to the Blaby Union.

Extract from a Letter from *Langham Rokeby*, Esq., J. P., Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the *Market Harborough* Union.

"I attended the board of guardians yesterday; there were 12 guardians present, whose opinions I ascertained as to the operation of the poor law in their respective parishes and

and immediate neighbourhood. They informed me that there is a very general increase in the habits of industry among the labouring classes; that persons who never could be made to work before, have become good labourers, and do not express any dissatisfaction with the measure; that in most parishes the moral character of the poor is improving; there is a disposition to be more orderly and well-behaved. So far as I can judge from the inquiries I have made from time to time, and from conversations with respectable farmers and others, who hold no offices, I may venture to say, that the measure is working very satisfactorily; that the great body of the labouring poor throughout the Union have become reconciled to it, that the workhouse is held in great dread, that there is a greater disposition to seek for employment, and but very few complaints of misbehaviour, and that cases of bastardy are on the decline. I think I am confirmed in my opinion that the measure is working well, by the alacrity with which, in many parishes of the Union, the able-bodied labourers have come forward to protect themselves medically. The terms are 5*s.* per house per annum, which includes both the parents and all children under 16 years of age; the only exceptions are bad fractures and small-pox, where they refuse vaccination. The money is paid half-yearly in advance."

— No. 18. —

REPORT on the County of *Chester*, by *Richard Digby Neave*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Gentlemen, Knutsford, July 8, 1836.

In conformity with your instructions, I have the honour to lay before you an outline of my operations under the Commission during the last quarter. Those operations have been limited to the agricultural districts of the county of Chester.

Measures taken under the Commission.

On first opening my proceedings in the hundred of Wirrall, I put myself in communication with the best-informed gentlemen of the district, and proceeded to make personal inquiries as to the state of the poor in the separate townships, preparatory to their being brought into Union. The course of these inquiries showed the pressure of pauperism to be light, and that the crying grievances of the south had been skilfully warded off by the vigilance of the magistrates, who enjoy this advantage, that their equitable awards are not captiously or litigiously cavilled at. But it was evident that the rapid strides of internal improvement which characterise this district, and the consequent increase of population, were bidding fair to render the primitive management which had hitherto prevailed, more and more difficult if not impractible, a position aptly illustrated by the annual increase of both the number and salaries of assistant overseers.

In this state of transition, the difficulties of parochial management were much increased by the total absence of workhouse accommodation. A Union of 56 townships was declared in May, and I had the satisfaction of seeing the zeal and experience of the magistrates and resident proprietors transferred with increased efficiency to a board of guardians. Land for a workhouse has been obtained, and preparations for building are in progress.

Beneficial effects.

Though this district is one of the least pauperised of any visited by the Commission, and though the Wirrall Union has been declared barely two months, the solid advantages of the system of district management have been already evidenced by the revision of the pauper lists. This revision, after liberally satisfying all just claims, has effected a saving sufficient to meet the Union charges for the current quarter.

Chester.

Pending the formation of this Union I had visited Chester, where I found the guardians of the poor, under their local Act, following up the regulations of the Central Board, and prepared fully to appreciate the advantages of the new system. The board of guardians frankly and unanimously dissolved their body, to be re-organized under the Poor Law Amendment Act, and added their cordial support to the arrangements for the union of 109 townships, of which the county of the city of Chester is the centre. They await the declaration of the new Union by the Commission, and in the meantime the settlement of their affairs preparatory to the opening of the Union is being conducted under the provisional board. I then extended my inquiries to the hundreds of Bucklow, Eddisbury and Northwich; and in concurrence with the owners and occupiers generally, have prepared the details of three Unions which I shall shortly have the honour to submit for your approval.

Examination of accounts.

In a district in which it is but justice to say that parochial business is conducted with good feelings and the best intentions, and where instances of mismanagement form the exceptions, it would answer no good end to particularise cases of error or negligence, or dwell upon practices which prevailed before public opinion had been beneficially directed to the subject of the poor laws. But the examination of the accounts of 290 townships furnish a body of facts which fully warrant the promise of very considerable savings, and many features are exhibited and points of practice are developed which it would be improper to pass unnoticed, as they demonstrate the necessity of district supervision, and show the impossibility of securing evenhanded justice to either rate-payer or rate-receiver as long as the minute sub-divisions of township management shall continue. Fellow feeling for neighbours in the exercise of the gratuitous and ill-defined duties of overseer occasions much laxity of practice, which shows itself sometimes in an imperfect scrutiny into accounts, and sometimes in the formal forgiveness of a balance by the vestry. Confidence in the honest intentions of the overseers is seldom abused, but an occasional "moonlight flitting" shows the

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the necessity of monied security wherever public property is entrusted to private hands; and the want of an efficient audit is equally to be inferred from the not unfrequent sanction given to imperfect accounts by the ministerial act of the magistrates' signature.

Nor are instances wanting in which items, after being properly disallowed, have been finally passed, for no better reason than that they have been perseveringly presented. One township is now liquidating a considerable debt of five years' standing, for which 5 per cent. interest is paid; it was incurred under the following circumstances. An overseer, of unbusinesslike habits, borrowed the money necessary for the township disbursements, and actually neglected either to make an assessment or collect a rate during his term of office; householders settled in the township and removed from it without being called upon for a single levy.

Paid officers.

Good has generally resulted from the appointment of assistant overseers, and this district furnishes some very striking instances of reduction of rates effected by their exertions, whilst the complaints of the poor to the magistrates have become less frequent. But there are other townships in which their appointment has occasioned some sacrifice of humane consideration for the really indigent.

Houses of industry.

Chester House of Industry is the only establishment which has come under my observation within the county in which classification is preserved. It is held out as a threat to the refractory and idle by many distant townships with excellent effect. Some find their account in continuing to subscribe, though they never sent a single pauper.

A visit to the smaller establishments of this county will satisfy any unprejudiced person, that the lighter the pressure of pauperism the more urgent will be the necessity of a district workhouse on the score of humanity; unless, which is contrary to all experience, a state of society can be anticipated in which there shall be no objects of public charity. For as the numbers decrease opportunities of classification diminish, till the day-room of an ordinary workhouse presents in melancholy array the representatives of all the miseries flesh is heir to, to the utter discomfort of the aged, and the inevitable demoralization of the young; and the complaints of the master and contractor show, that as the numbers diminish he can less afford to fulfil his engagements in a liberal manner.

Payment of rents by parish.

A prominent feature of relief in this county is the payment of cottage rents; a practice which has the pernicious tendency of making the labouring class lean more or less upon the rates, and helps to break down the broad line of distinction which it is so essential to preserve between the labourer and the pauper. But for this practice this county, as far as my experience goes, might boast a freedom from the taint of able-bodied pauperism. In the course of my inquiries into the state of the poor, it is a constant complaint of the overseers and others that many, by threatening to require cottages for their families, force themselves on the list of out-poor, and many continue to live rent free, whilst in the receipt of larger earnings than the labourer who supports himself. As this cause operates now when there is a scarcity of hands, and labourers are tempted by higher wages to desert their annual services, it is obvious that the evil would be seriously felt in case of any depression of trade, or when the impulse at present given to internal improvements shall receive a check. Generally speaking, in letting cottages to the poor the landlord has had it in view to accommodate the township, but the practice of building small tenements, in the hope of obtaining public security for the rent and rates, had crept in. Great efforts are now making to discontinue the payment of rents, but they require the support of a well-regulated workhouse.

Bastardy.

Since the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act the number of bastard births has gradually decreased, and of those born the affiliations are comparatively few. Complaints of the indifference of the relations of the poor as to the morals of their daughters are general, and to this evil no adequate remedy can be applied, as long as the want of well-regulated workhouses prevents the full developement of the salutary effects of the law; for it is clear that the interest of the cottage will never be fairly enlisted on the side of female virtue, as long as unmarried mothers receive parish allowance under the roofs of their relations.

It is natural that attachment to a long established system should be strongest in that district on which it has entailed the fewest evils. But I have had great satisfaction in observing that the body of facts furnished by the working of the new Unions, and the accumulative evidence of the superiority of district management, secures the cordial co-operation of the magistrates and rate-payers; and I have had experience that by their friendly aid the labours of the Assistant Commissioners are both facilitated and alleviated. And here I cannot help remarking how often I have been struck with the cheerful frankness with which the assistant overseers have acknowledged the advantage of a change which necessarily deprives them of their salaries.

The exertions generally made during the last two years to profit by the experience of the Central Board, and the increased demand for labour, forbid the promise of the extraordinary savings effected in the south; but as soon as the zeal and intelligence now in action in this district shall be concentrated in Union, and the means and appliances of classified workhouses shall be furnished, I feel confident that the Commission will have put the county of Chester in a position to exhibit the minimum of pauperism in a rich and well ordered community.

I have, &c.

R. Digby Neave.
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

To the Poor Law Commissioners,
Somerset House.

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Report of
W. J. Voules, Esq.

REPORT on *Westmorland* and *Cumberland*, by *William James Voules*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Gentlemen, Kendal, 21 June 1836.

So short a period has elapsed since I had the honour of receiving your directions to proceed to this district, that I necessarily feel great difficulty in complying, except in a very imperfect and limited degree, with your instructional letter of the 2d of May last.

State of district.

The counties assigned to me have happily been exempt from the prevalence of those evils which have afflicted the more southern counties: but the germs of mismanagement nevertheless exist; and it is the opinion of the best informed persons, that although the system of hiring and service adopted here has had a tendency to postpone the evil, yet the facility with which relief is extorted in the agricultural districts, whether in the shape of rents or pecuniary aid, is causing a rapid approximation to the abuses of the south.

What is called "surplus labour" does not here exist. Intersected in every direction by ranges of almost inaccessible and nearly barren mountains, the population is thinly dotted over the intervening valleys, in irregular and ever-varying position and extent, as the facilities for cultivation, or the opportunities for employment, present themselves.

The farms are generally small, rarely exceeding 100 acres, and sometimes consisting of a cottage and only a very few acres; and this arrangement, together with the system of hiring and service, contributes to uphold a spirit of independence, and to inspire habits of industry and frugality.

Hiring of labourers.

The agricultural labourer is generally hired for the half year, and becomes the inmate of his master's house; there, associated at once with the farmer and his family, who are but one degree above himself, he is taught to look up to the position of his master, as one to which he may attain; his energies are stimulated by the homely comforts which he sees around him, and which the experience of every day shows him may, by a steady and undeviating course of integrity and industry, be made his own. Nor are other incentives to this laudable ambition wanting: the policy and good feeling of the more affluent inducing them readily to supply, either by way of gift or loan, to the industrious and well-disposed, the means of stocking these small establishments; early and improvident marriages are thus checked, and the district is saved from the infliction of those pauper colonies which disfigure and disgrace less favoured counties.

The system of hiring is also good as affects the married labourer; the harvest of this county is the wood-cutting season, and which in most instances provides the labourer and his family with the means of support through the winter, and often with a considerable sum beyond. The proprietors divide the woods into portions, which are let to labourers to be cleared by a given day; the wood is peeled and prepared for all the different purposes of commerce, as for hoops, baskets, bark and charcoal; and in the various processes every member of the family, even to the infant of five years old, is enabled to contribute, and the labourer thus finds his family an assistance, instead of a burthen to him; indeed so frugal and provident are the habits of some of these labourers, that in cases where their residence is distant only half a mile from their work, they will erect a temporary residence in the woods, rather than lose the time which would be occupied in going and returning. But there are of course exceptions to this happy state of things, and in those parishes where laxity in the administration of parochial affairs prevails, and they are without the means of applying the workhouse test, the demands of the idle and dissolute are as exorbitant as they are inexcusable; indeed, to use the words of an intelligent and effective assistant overseer, with whom I have had much conversation and correspondence, "these exceptions will be found in parishes where they have not a workhouse in the rear to fall back upon, and where the administration of the poor laws is left to annual overseers; here the pauper knows very well (for it has been regularly transmitted from father to son), that all he has to do is to go to him, with his family, and threaten to remain, which is generally quite enough to procure a weekly pension or some other extravagant request; indeed the only care of the overseer in most cases seems to be how to get out of his office with as little trouble as possible."

Beer-shops.

The baneful influence of the new beer-shops in generating and fostering crime and encouraging improvidence, operates even with the best disposed, and obliterates the desire for the establishment of a fund to meet the accidental and inevitable visitations of sickness or old age and infirmity; nor is their prejudicial effect confined to the agricultural districts, for I am assured by the proprietor of very extensive cotton mills, near Ulverstone, that the only source from which he can obtain change to pay his people on Saturday night, is the beer-shop which has been opened close to his mill, the keeper of which regularly brings him 25 *l.* or 30 *l.* for that purpose every week, thus showing how large a portion of the earnings of those employed is diverted into this unhallowed channel.

The gentleman to whom I before alluded, writes, that "unless the Beer Shop Act is abolished, all our plans, vigilance and care will prove abortive; the legislature could not, in my opinion, give a greater boon to the nation than its immediate repeal; it would, I can assure you, be a day of rejoicing to a thousand families, members of which, hitherto respectable, have become corrupted in these dens of iniquity."

I have had much conversation with magistrates and others upon the best mode of checking the prejudicial effects of these nuisances, and the general impression appears to be, that if

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an increased rent and rating were required as a qualification, the effect would be to place them, both in number and respectability, within the reach of a strict and salutary control.

The existing laws are in my opinion quite adequate, but great difficulty exists in inducing persons to set the law in motion; to remedy this, I would venture to suggest, as the evils complained of are so intimately connected with pauperism, and so necessarily lead to its extension, that the duty of inspecting and reporting upon the state and management of these houses might be engrafted upon the other duties of relieving officer; indeed I find the magistrates themselves most desirous of this arrangement: they all deprecate the evil, and complain that they are compelled to witness the increasing virulence of a disease for which they have sufficient remedies, "if called in;" but for which, if they gratuitously prescribe, they are deemed officious quacks.

The principal offences in the district are, drunkenness, robbery, poaching and bastardy.

The first of these prevails to a degree which perfectly astonished me; it is not the vice of the labourer only, but unhappily pervades the yeomanry and that class from which the parish officers and constables are selected, and hence the difficulty in procuring evidence of the orgies nightly enacted in the beer-shops.

Robbery and poaching have also latterly very much increased. The general opinion is, that the increase of the former is owing to the establishment of an effective and vigilant police at Manchester and Liverpool, which has driven marauders from these populous places to other scenes of plunder and peculation; and that the latter is ascribable to the facilities which the new game law presents, removing, as it does, one of the dangers to which the poacher was formerly exposed, namely, the selling of the game.

Bastardy.

But the vice which calls most loudly for some check is bastardy. I have endeavoured, by the institution of the most minute inquiry amongst all classes, to come at the real cause of the extent to which bastardy prevails in every part of these counties, and without being enabled to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion. By some it is attributed to the employment of females in the ordinary out-door avocations of a farm-house, which necessarily brings them into contact with the other sex, under circumstances of privacy and opportunity which would not otherwise present themselves; again, the superintendence of the breeding department of a farm-yard is not altogether calculated to allay the passions or promote the virtue of a young female, whose mind is undisciplined by education or unrestrained by religious principles; others ascribe the frequency of the offence to the faulty arrangements of the farm-houses, where, I am assured, it often happens that two or three girls, who are hired in the same way with the male servants, are allowed to occupy the same garret or loft with as many of the other sex, with no other separation of their dormitories than a curtain or cloth; and where, in almost all cases, the rooms appropriated to the servants are passage-rooms. But these alleged causes only apply to the country, and the crime equally prevails in the towns, and is unfortunately not limited in either to the lowest order, or, in individuals, to one offence; repeated instances occurring of women having had three or four, what they call, "misfortunes" in as many years. Various and contradictory, however, as are the causes assigned for its prevalence, all concur in assuring me that the vice has been very much checked by the anticipated application of the new poor law; parents and relatives who contemplated with indifference the receipt by their children and connexions, of a weekly sum from the parish purse, the acceptance of which would probably be known but to few, and by that few not regarded as a mark of disgrace, have found it desirable, now that the result is to immure the delinquents in a workhouse, to impose a wholesome restraint upon their conduct, and to adopt, when the "misfortune" has (notwithstanding their increased vigilance) occurred, the alternative of providing for the mother and her offspring without parochial assistance.

I am assured, that in an establishment employing 150 women, and where cases of bastardy were, previously to the passing of the Act, as the manager said, "innumerable," not a case now exists of an unmarried woman being with child; and this he ascribes to the horror which they have of being sent to the workhouse.

In the parish of Penrith, the principle of throwing the burthen, in cases of bastardy, upon the mother, has been acted upon since 1826; in that year this parish paid 210 *l.* for upwards of 50 cases of affiliation; the number has been gradually decreasing, and the benefits, both in a moral and pecuniary point of view, are evidenced by the facts that at this moment there are but 11 cases on the books, and that, although they have not affiliated a single case since the passing of the Act, the parish is not at this time burthened with one bastard born subsequently.

The parish of Kendal has also effected, with reference to bastardy, and indeed in several other important particulars, an approximation to the principles and practice of the new law; but these form bright exceptions, as, with all the advantages of a scanty population, cheap provisions, sufficient wages and constant employment, the agricultural townships have generally betrayed great want of energy and intelligence in the administration of the affairs of the poor.

I have thus endeavoured to comply with that part of your instructions which requires me to report upon "the general condition of the labouring classes;" and although I am precluded from affording at present any detailed instances of the practical result of the new law, I have the greatest satisfaction in being enabled to assure you that the kind and intelligent reception which I experience from all parties interested, and the friendly co-operation and intercourse which I enjoy with the magistracy and other influential persons, leave not a doubt upon my mind that every prejudice against the new law will be speedily removed, and its good effects universally acknowledged. I have, &c.

W. J. Voules,
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

— No. 20. —

REPORT on Home Migration to the Counties of *Lancaster*, *Chester*, and *Derby*, by *Richard M. Muggeridge*, Esq., Migration Agent to the Poor Law Commissioners: with a Supplement.

To the Poor Law Commissioners for *England* and *Wales*.

Gentlemen, Manchester, 25 July 1836.

In submitting for your consideration a report on the progress and present state of home migration, as far as conducted by my agency, it will, I feel, be the preferable course to enter upon a review of the subject in all its bearings, now that the system has undergone the test of a few months' experience, and I may be expected to have acquired, to a certain extent, the means of judging how far it has been likely to have realized the benevolent intentions of the Board in making trial of it, or been productive of public advantage.

The first few weeks after my arrival in the north of England were devoted almost entirely to obtaining information on the object of my mission. Personal inquiry, for obvious reasons, appeared to be the most appropriate to pursue; I therefore visited the chief seats of manufacture in this county, conferred with most of the leading manufacturers, and sought and invited opinions and information from every quarter that I thought could advantageously furnish me either.

I received everywhere the most hearty and friendly co-operation, and the result of my inquiries, and the information I received, was a perfect conviction that a considerable scarcity of hands existed in several branches of industry; but in none was this deficiency so clearly apparent, or to such an extent, as in the manufactories.

The proffered assistance of the commission to act as agents to supply this deficiency was cordially and thankfully received.

The offer, luckily, happened to be extremely well-timed; for spontaneous migration, to a limited extent, I found to have already taken place, but under circumstances the most adverse to the success of the measure, and, indeed, to the permanent welfare of the individuals who were the objects of it.

The demand for labour in the north had become partially known in other parts of the kingdom, and some few individuals and officers of heavily burthened parishes in the south, had originated plans for relieving themselves of their surplus population through this channel.

With a few honourable exceptions, however, among which I must particularly include the Rev. J. Beard, of Cranfield, in Bedfordshire, John Weyland, esq., the chairman of the Norfolk Sessions, the Rev. W. Blackley, of East Bradenham, and Mr. May, of Ampthill, the selection of families or individuals for migration was not guided either by their eligibility or legal qualifications * for the peculiar labour of these districts, or the general character of the parties themselves for industry and good conduct, but from narrow and mistaken views of mere personal or parish interest. A sturdy and importunate pauper, a profligate or idle family, or the largest recipient of the parochial funds, was deemed the most desirable family to get rid of, and had been usually the first recommended for migration to the manufacturing districts.

Extravagant and unfounded promises, and, where these failed, threats had been, I was informed, in some cases held out to induce persons to migrate, and instances had, as must have been expected, already occurred, in which families brought down under such circumstances had been returned to their parishes, at an expense far greater than the amount saved by their temporary absence from their settlements.

It will not be questioned but that had such cases become frequent, migration would have been effectually prevented. As it is, those that have occurred, have, I think, upon the whole, been productive of good. They have induced the employers almost exclusively to negociate with the recognized agents of the board, and have shown to parishes that it is not their refuse that may be expected to be retained, or to do well here, even if encouraged, enforced, or persuaded to migrate.

Nothing can be so likely to impede or ultimately stop migration, as such influences as those above described operating upon the minds of persons selecting families for this object. There is no part of England, perhaps not of the world, where industry is so triumphant as here, or where it is so well appreciated, or so well rewarded, but in exactly the same degree is indolence discouraged and despised. It should therefore be the peculiar care of boards of guardians and others not to incur the expense of sending down families unless they are well assured that they entertain an honest desire to work for their livings, to put their own shoulders to the wheel, and to act as good and cheerful servants should do, towards liberal and encouraging masters.

Where selections are so guided, families are almost sure to do well, and may easily emerge from dependence and pauperism to comparative independence and comfort.

I have transcribed from one of my office books an account showing the terms upon which 100 families have migrated†.

It

* The Factories Regulation Act (3 & 4 Will. IV. c. 103) prescribes the ages at which children shall be eligible to work in the factories. The young persons of the southern families are usually so employed, the fathers almost always working upon the land, or at out-door labour. Some letters will be found in the Supplement showing the facility with which the children usually adapt themselves to their new occupation.

† Supplement, p. 422.

Appendix (B.)

No. 20.
Report of
R. M. Muggeridge,
Esq.

It will be seen that the average wages of these 100 families is for the

First year	£.1	9	4½	weekly.
Second year	1	14	1	—
Third year	1	19	4½	—

The perusal of this table in some degree would suggest the question, whether persons so circumstanced are not in a condition to return to their parishes the whole or a part of the money which has been expended to place them in the situations they occupy.

It has been already more than once urged upon me that the money so advanced by parishes should, by the board's authority, be declared relief by way of loan.

In a communication I received on this subject, from the Rev. Sir Augustus Henniker, bart., the chairman of the Hartismere Union, in Suffolk, he states in reference thereto:

"It seems also but an act of justice to the rate-payers, who many of them are in much worse circumstances than these very paupers will be on their entering their employment, and who will have such ample means without distressing themselves, to return the money so advanced by instalments."

In many cases this view of the subject is perfectly correct. I fear it is unquestionable that very many of the smaller contributors to parochial rates in the rural districts of England do not make an average weekly amount of earnings equal to that of the migrated families shown in this table; and as it appears in several of the cases, the aggregate weekly earnings of one family exceed 40*s.* at the commencement of their contracts, and will be considerably increased afterwards, with strict economy and honest intentions, they might no doubt be able to contribute by instalments towards the repayment of the expenses which have been incurred by their parishes.

At the same time, I do not think that, upon the whole, it will be desirable to call for any repayment from them during the first few months of their location. The assistance they derive from their parishes, liberal as in some cases it undoubtedly is, usually falls far short of an adequacy to furnish their cottages and clothe themselves as well as the generality of the workpeople of the same class among whom they are newly domiciled; and while, from any cause, they continue in a worse condition than most of their neighbours, they are likely to lack that degree of contentment, which is essential to their becoming good servants, and creditable members of society.

I am also exceedingly anxious that before they are called upon to repay the expenses they have occasioned, they should possess the means of enrolling themselves members of a sick club, or provident institution; this is an arrangement not only advantageous to themselves, but collaterally so to their parishes, and one which I have taken every opportunity of urging both upon the labourers and their employers.

By the former, I have been usually met with the assurance that they would avail themselves of my advice as soon as they got settled, and had provided for their first wants; but I have reason to fear that, where such prudence has not been rather coercively pressed upon them by the employer, they have not manifested it to any considerable extent.

Some of the most extensive and best conducted establishments have sick clubs, to which they require all persons in their employ to belong; and where the southern families have been so placed, the same rule has been rigidly enforced with them. In others, no provision of the kind is made, and judging from the amount of investments in saving banks throughout the country, and from other causes, I much fear it will be found that the general characteristic of the working classes of these districts is a deficiency of prudence and forethought.

Large as their earnings are, they are usually spent in the beer-shops, with which the entire district now unhappily abounds, I am assured, almost as soon as received; and I have in vain sought to find out any less public means of investing their surplus earnings of which they avail themselves. I am afraid, therefore, that the disparity shown in the amount of investments in saving banks between the manufacturing and agricultural counties correctly indicates the relative degree of providence and of frugality of the two classes of workpeople.

It is, however, entirely a question for the board to deal with, whether the assistance first rendered the migrants by their parishes shall be declared on loan, or otherwise; and if the former, whether the period, mode and proportion of repayment should not be left to be hereafter decided upon.

The subject is one of very great importance, and I shall be prepared, as soon as circumstances may enable me to do so, to make a further representation upon it to the Board; meantime, as the several Unions and parishes appear to consider themselves at liberty to make what private agreements they think politic and equitable with their migrating families, there is the less injustice done them by the delay of an order which would probably tend more than any other to diminish the willingness of parties to migrate.

If, however, in the judgment of the Board, there should appear causes for the adoption of such a regulation, paramount to the reasons which have been urged against it, then I should very strongly advise, that the employer of each migrant family be the person to fix the period at which the repayments should commence, and the amount of the instalments by which they are to be made. There are so many casualties which may affect the means of families separately, that I think no general regulation, unless fenced with exceptions, on the subject would be found to work well; while the master is obviously the person the most likely to be correctly acquainted with the exact condition of the persons in his employ, and of the period at which they may be fairly called upon to spare a portion of their earnings to liquidate the expenses they have occasioned.

There are one or two other points, I think, deserving the early consideration of the Board. The first is, whether some uniform regulation should not be established by their authority,

to

to insure that all persons migrating may do so, as nearly as practicable, on the same terms. At present, the conditions of a pauper's migration are left to be regulated between himself and his parish officer, or the board of guardians of the Union to which he is attached. This leads, in many instances, to an injurious distinction in the subsequent condition of persons who have migrated. It frequently happens that the same employer receives two or three families, whom I will call Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

No. 1 is, perhaps, sent from Union (A.), in Norfolk, liberally provided with clothing, and finds on his arrival 5*l.* has been received by his employer, as a donation, to assist him in purchasing furniture, &c.

No. 2 comes from Union (B.), in Essex, ill clad, and without furniture or the means of procuring any; he must, therefore, commence his engagement by getting money on loan from his master, or finding some one willing to trust him for the necessaries he absolutely requires on his first location.

No. 3 comes from parish (C.) He has been as well clothed as No. 1 by his parish, and has also received, say from 3*l.* to 5*l.* to purchase furniture; but all this has been done upon loan, and he has consented to have from 2*s.* to 5*s.* weekly stopped from his earnings to repay the debt he has created.

These persons soon find out how each has been provided for by his parish, and in such a case as this, which is an illustration of several that have actually occurred, two out of the three persons are dissatisfied that they were not sent upon as liberal a footing as their other companion.

The masters equally disapprove of the distinction, often, as they assure me, finding that the best man of the three has received the least encouragement.

I confess that the distinction appears to me so like a remnant of the old vicious system of a different mode of administration of the same law, that I am extremely anxious to see it exploded, and an uniform regulation on the subject established by the Board's authority.

The other point to which I would advert is rather in anticipation of the recurrence of a case which has already taken place, where a family brought down upon a particular offer of employment, have refused, after their arrival, to fulfil their part of the contract, by engaging themselves for a term.

I have always required such a condition from the master; first, as a protection to the parish who are at the expense of sending the family; and secondly, for the security of the latter, that they should not be thrown out of employment a few weeks after their migration.

It is equally desirable, if practicable, to secure the employer against the loss of the services of the migrated family, after he has been at the expense and trouble of teaching them their business, and is fairly looking forward to a compensating return for his outlay from the skill they should have acquired.

In the early stage of my proceedings here, I found an impression current that some danger would be attendant upon any publicly organized scheme of migration.

This, it was expected, would arise from the fears or passions of the indigenous working population being excited by imaginary self-interest, or other feelings.

I had always thought it possible some such obstacle might present itself; and from the first moment I came into the district I shaped my course of conduct accordingly. I determined to locate the families, as far as practicable, in different places or parts of the country; to prevent more than two or three families arriving at the same time at the same destination; to shun collision between them and the native population of the large towns; and above all, only to place them under masters for whom their workpeople entertained respect, and whose general conduct towards those in his employ would disarm suspicion or malevolence of the power of exciting the belief that they were intended to displace other workpeople.

I will not take upon myself to say that these precautions have had any effect in producing the quietude and good feeling with which the southern families have been received, but I have the greatest pleasure in stating that in no one instance have I heard of the slightest ill-will having been manifested towards them; while, on the contrary, several instances have come to my knowledge of their kindness and hospitality to the "strangers" most creditable to the character of the native workpeople.

It seems indeed to be, fortunately, well understood that migration has not been promoted to cheapen labour; that it is not the wish or the object of the employer to bring hence a family to work at a low rate of wages to displace one who is working at a higher, but solely to fill up a gap in his establishment, created by the increased means of employment he possesses from the extension of his trade, and the diminution in the number of available workpeople, occasioned by their dispersion among the large concerns daily rising into existence on all sides of him; and which are so apparent that, with the solitary faculty of sight, a person can scarcely be ignorant that a large increase of population must be brought from some quarter. There exists, therefore, no feeling of rivalry between the northern and southern labourer; no idea that the one is attempting to undersell or to compete with the other in the labour market; his migration is viewed only as a fair and honest endeavour to supply an acknowledged and legitimate demand. The usually humble deportment of the migrant himself, the timidity and diffidence of his family, perhaps peculiarly shown on their first arrival among strangers, and the undeniable fact of their having voluntarily estranged themselves from their native homes, for the praiseworthy object of earning an honest maintenance by their own industry, are alike calculated to excite compassion and good feeling towards them: and had their reception been of an opposite character to that they have experienced, it would have been undoubtedly the result of a diversion of the genuine feelings of an Englishman towards a countryman in distress, produced by a misunderstanding of the subject or misrepresentation of its object.

Appendix (B.)

No. 15.
Report of
R. M. Muggeridge, Esq.

In the Report of the Commissioners appointed by His Majesty to inquire into the practical operation of the old poor laws, the Commissioners, when treating on colonial emigration, suggested that, in order to diminish distaste to the colonies on imaginary grounds, the emigrants from particular parishes and neighbourhoods in England should be directed, as far as possible, to the same townships or districts, in which the new comers would thus find old acquaintances and manners with which they would be familiar.

Considering that, to a certain extent, the suggestion might be beneficially acted upon at home, I have, as far as practicable, endeavoured to carry it into effect, and in several instances, by locating families from the same parish or union under one employer or in the same neighbourhood, I have already had the opportunity of illustrating its value and importance. Families, so circumstanced, have stated to me the comfort and assistance they have derived from having a neighbour to whose habits and feelings their own assimilated; and particularly in cases of sickness, or temporary distress from any cause, the advantage has been peculiarly felt, and very thankfully admitted.

I must now beg the attention of the Board to a statement, showing the total number of families and individuals who have been actually located; the number provided for; the counties from whence they migrated, and those in which they are at present employed, to which I have added the total number of persons who, after sending me their names as willing to migrate, afterwards refused to do so when I had succeeded in obtaining for them offers of employment.

These tables show that the total number for whom employment has been obtained, by my agency only, during the short period the system has been in operation, is 3,454. Of this number 2,673 have arrived at their new locations, 383 are on their journey down, and 398 have refused the engagements offered them.

The returns from the West Riding of Yorkshire and from North Lancashire will show what may be added from those districts, so as to form an aggregate of the whole migration which has been conducted under the authority of the Commission.

The spontaneous migration of families and individuals which has taken place through private exertions and influence since the Board promulgated generally, by their First Annual Report, the fact of the existence of the demand for labour in this part of England, has been very considerable, but I have no means of making a correct estimate on the subject.

I have heard too of so many instances of persons thus introduced having subsequently returned to their parishes, that I fear I could not avoid error in calculating the probable number remaining.

ANALYSIS of Negociation Register, 20 July 1836.

	Families.	Comprising Persons.
Total number for whom offers of employment have been obtained, and transmitted	435	3,454
Of whom have arrived at their new locations	329	2,673
On their journey down, or for whom negociations are going on	43	383
Refused to migrate after offers of employment had been obtained for them	63	398

ANALYSIS of Location Register 20 July 1836.

Counties from whence Migrated.	Number of Families	Number of Individuals.	In which Counties Located.	Number of Persons.
Bedfordshire	18	144	Lancashire	1,223
Berkshire	13	120		
Buckinghamshire	47	414	Cheshire	760
Cambridgeshire	5	49		
Dorsetshire	1	9	Derbyshire	339
Essex	4	40		
Hampshire	4	37	Yorkshire	163
Kent	5	48		
Middlesex	1	3	Staffordshire	74
Norfolk	10	96		
Northamptonshire	1	8	Somersetshire	18
Oxfordshire	17	141		
Suffolk	184	1,464	Warwickshire	57
Sussex	14	66		
Wiltshire	5	34	Westmorland	39
	329	2,673		2,673

If

If the aggregate of family or individual location has not been as great as the Board may have anticipated or desired, I am afraid that it must, in fairness, be attributed more to the cautionary regulations which I felt it to be my duty to adopt in the infancy of the scheme, than to any want of willingness on the part of employers in these districts to avail themselves of the labour of their southern countrymen. I have always considered that so much depended upon the success of the first working of the plan; that it was so essential the families coming here should not only find that they had greatly benefited themselves by their migration, but that their employers should also participate in the same satisfaction, that I have rather strove to do what has been done well, than to attempt a great deal more, and execute the work imperfectly. With this feeling, I have never made a single contract for the employment of a family without having first satisfied myself, as far as I could have the power of doing so, that every prospect existed of the engagement being mutually beneficial to the employer and the employed. I have endeavoured to obtain for the one, honest, industrious and willing servants; for the other, kind, considerate and liberal masters.

The confidence with which the proceedings of the Board are viewed by a large proportion of the most intelligent men of all parties, called, also, I considered, for this caution. Without its exercise parishes might, and probably would, in some cases, have been called upon to defray the expenses of a pauper's migration, only to learn that he had lost his situation from incapacity or discontent almost as soon as he had entered upon its duties; that the money they had expended had been useless and unprofitable, and the object frustrated for which it had been advanced*. The pauper himself might have undertaken a long and fatiguing journey only to encounter disappointment or despair; and a measure of vast utility and advantage, when fairly called into action, may have been nipped in the bud, not from any demerits of its own, but from a too hasty and injudicious attempt to make it assume at once the attitude of importance that it ought to be the gradual work of time and circumstances to produce.

Each individual case of migration, standing as it does upon its own merits, requires far greater attention and care in detail, than any one would be likely to suppose who was not thoroughly conversant with the system adopted. The employer has first to be found; then the family selected from whose "Descriptive List†" he may be induced to make the offer of employment; next, the terms have to be discussed and settled upon which he proposes to make this offer, and the necessary Form ‡ signed. The contract has then to be registered in the office, and a duplicate of it to be drawn out, and with the Instructional Letter § to be transmitted to the board of guardians of the Union to which the family selected belongs. If they accept the tender made them, another Form ‖ reaches the office, and this also occasions correspondence. All this is the work of time, and is required to be gone through in every individual case, and when, after all, the parties refuse to migrate, the same arrangements have to be remade for the family proposed to be substituted.

It will be obvious to the Board, that beyond this ordinary routine, there is scarcely a case of migration which does not lead to some further correspondence; in addition to which, there is the general correspondence of the office, which averages above 100 letters weekly, and which has latterly much increased.

Whatever may be the extent of migration which actually takes place, the advantages of the system are not solely derivable from this source.

In numerous cases persons have found out that by a little exertion of their own they can find work in their own neighbourhoods; and it is surprising the effect the mere offer of employment in the north of England has had upon many of the old and constant attendants at the parish pay-tables in the south, who had for months, and in some cases for years, drawn regularly and periodically, assistance from their parishes upon the plea of not being able to obtain work. Many of this description, I have been assured by gentlemen of integrity, now "get work and keep it," and are becoming industrious and well-behaved labourers.

A striking case, somewhat illustrative of these opinions, occurred in one of the Kent Unions, the Milton, of which Sir John Tylden is chairman.

The board of guardians transmitted me the names of 20 young persons who were all inmates of the Union workhouse, requesting me, if practicable, to find them employment. I did so; engaging with the highly respectable firm of M'Connel & Co. to employ them for three years at one of their factories, beautifully situated at Cressbrook, adjoining the healthy and far-famed Monsal Dale in Derbyshire. Messrs. M'Connel were to board, lodge, clothe, instruct, and find them every requisite, in addition to a small allowance of pocket-money, in return for their labour; and at the expiration of their contract they promised to continue their employment and pay them wages adequate to their independent support.

The offer was thankfully acknowledged and accepted, but a few days before the party was expected to arrive, I received the following letter from the clerk to the board:

"Yesterday being our board day, the guardians of the Milton Union thought it proper first to see the children. Upon their appearing before the board, some had obtained situations elsewhere, others, their relations had agreed to maintain, and ultimately, instead of having 20 to be sent to Messrs. M'Connel's factory, near Bakewell, the guardians were deprived of the opportunity of sending a single child, as proposed.

"I beg

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* I am aware but of three families located by my agency having returned to their parishes. I reported specially on the case of one of them (Hobbs). In reference to another, a letter will be found in my Supplement, p. 424, from his late employers; the other left of his own accord also.

† For Form, *see* Supplement, p. 425. ‡ Ib. p. 425. § Ib. p. 426. ‖ Ib. 426.

Appendix (B.)

No. 20.
Report of
R. M. Muggeridge, Esq.

"I beg most particularly to thank you for your very prompt attention to the business, and though I cannot but regret should any inconvenience have arisen to Messrs. M'Connel, by the children not being sent, still I cannot but consider much good has been done by arousing the spirit for individual exertion to find labour, which has so manifestly shown itself on this occasion."

Many cases of a similar nature have been reported to me, in some of which the paupers have continued to receive relief up to the very time at which an offer for their employment has been received from me. In others, while the board of guardians thought the pauper was making the necessary preparations for his departure, it has turned out that he had been seeking, and had succeeded in obtaining, employment for himself elsewhere.

Arrangements of the same nature as those entered into with Messrs. M'Connel for the employment of the children of the Milton Union, have been carried into effect on behalf of young persons from other Unions. In other cases, I have completed negotiations slightly different. The Royston Union, in Hertfordshire, sent me a number of children, whom I have placed with the Messrs. Waithman, of Yealand, near Burton, in Westmorland. In this case the children were accompanied by a widow, with three children of her own, from the same Union, she acting as matron of the whole so long as she performs her duty to the children to the satisfaction of her respectable employers. These children were to be paid stipulated wages, a certain portion being allowed for their maintenance, and the remainder appropriated to the purchase of clothing for them.

The Thakeham Union in Sussex have also sent some young persons to the works of Messrs. Peter Taylor & Co., of Hollinwood, in this county, under the guardianship of an intelligent and respectable married labourer from the same part of the country, with whom they have resided as part of his family ever since their arrival. I insert a letter addressed to me by the Rev. John Austin*, a magistrate of the county of Sussex, and the rector of the parish from which these children were sent, speaking very satisfactorily of the condition in which they were found, when visited quite unexpectedly by a parishioner.

I subjoin also the copy of an offer I obtained for the employment of the children in the Union workhouse at Bishop's Stortford, in Hertfordshire, from the Messrs. Turner, of Helmshore, near Haslingden†.

Under all these arrangements, the guardians of the Union or parish to which the children belong, select the man or matron who is to become, as it were, the parent of these friendless young persons. If, therefore, this selection be a proper one, their health and morals are watched over with as tender a regard as they very probably might have been under the parental roof. They are not domiciled with or confided to the care of strangers, but probably to persons previously known to many or most of them; they earn sufficient to enable their guardian to maintain them in health and comfort (which their employer has a direct interest in seeing done), and when the period of their contract expires, they will have acquired the requisite skill and knowledge of their calling to support themselves independently.

It should be well understood, however, that children should not be so sent who have parents living, the object not being to separate families, or provide for any particular member of a family, but rather for those who, as orphans or deserted children, have the strongest claims upon our pity and sympathy, and who usually stand the most in need of a befriending hand.

While on this part of the subject, it may not be irrelevant to make a few observations on the practice which was formerly so much more common than at present in the manufacturing districts, of hiring the children by apprenticeship.

The late Sir Richard Arkwright may be said to have originated, in a great degree, the apprentice system. It was his inventions that first led to the establishment of factories in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Lancashire. These were then erected where streams were found capable of affording the requisite power to work the machinery; the power being the great desideratum. In the neighbourhood of many, indeed most of these new erections, the population was extremely limited, and large numbers of young hands being suddenly required to assist in the several processes of the manufacture, recourse was had to the different parish workhouses in London and some of the great towns in the kingdom.

Some hundreds, I should perhaps be within bounds if I said thousands, of children were brought down from all parts of the country, and apprenticed to the manufacturers for a term of years. It was then the custom to have what was termed an "apprentice house" attached or near to the factory, and in these the young persons were lodged.

A vicious and most reprehensible practice existed in those days, of paying the overseers or overlookers of the mills according to the quantity of work they could turn off in the week or month; an incentive to long hours of labour, which caused frequent cases of overworking and cruelty, to which the unfortunate apprentices were peculiarly liable, from being in all cases far from their friends, and in many without any natural protectors, and so entirely under the authority and control of the master and the overlookers, that an appeal to the one against the other was regarded, if not as altogether useless, as more than likely to lead to increased severity and cause of complaint.

The evil attracted public notice, and the demand for legislative interference became so loud that, in 1802, the late Sir Robert Peel brought in and carried "An Act for the preservation of the health and morals of apprentices and others employed in cotton and other mills, and cotton and other factories."—(42 Geo. 3, c. 73.)

This

* Supplement, p. 427. † Ib. p. 427.

This Act extended to all such mills, wherein three or more apprentices were employed, and it provided:

1st. For the due ventilation and washing of the factories.

2d. The proper clothing of the apprentices.

3d. Limiting their labour to 12 hours daily, and not permitting it at night.

4th. Requiring each apprentice to be instructed in some part of every working day, during the first four years of his apprenticeship, in reading, writing and arithmetic.

5th. The separation of the sexes.

6th. Sunday instruction, and the attendance of the apprentices at divine service, and occasional examination by the rector, vicar, or curate of the parish.

7th. Authorising the justices at quarter sessions to appoint visitors of such factories, with requisite powers.

Such a measure would no doubt have very considerable effect in checking the system of apprenticeship that had heretofore been acted upon. It is probable also that many poor persons with families would by this time have resorted where work was to be obtained for them, a species of migration that it was obviously the interest of the employer to promote to the greatest practicable extent; and this would be further increased by the smaller class of tradespeople, who would plant themselves among the workpeople for the purpose of supplying their necessities. As the manufacturers, therefore, found that, from these or other sources, they could get supplied with hands from their own neighbourhoods, not subject to the restrictions which Sir Robert Peel's Act imposed on their apprentices, they would, no doubt, to whatever extent that might be, avail themselves of it, and in the same proportion cease to require the services of apprentices.

An important epoch, bearing on this subject, soon afterwards arrived, the application of steam-power to manufactories.

Unlike the earliest erected factories, which had to be reared where the power was to be found, and to draw a population to them to carry on the works, the steam-power was carried to the population, wherever it existed. Hill or valley, mountain or dale, river or brook, were alike matters of indifference; the steam-engine could be erected any-where, fuel (hereabouts easily attainable) and population being the only requisites to insure its capacity of adaptation to manufacturing purposes.

Where but ordinary care and humanity were exercised, the apprentice system was one of great trouble and anxiety to the master. He had the moral as well as physical condition of his young people to look after; to supply all their wants; to provide medical assistance in case of illness; and of course was subject, at all times, to the loss of the value of the apprentice's labour, the whole time it was prevented by indisposition or any cause whatever from working; to which was now superadded the legislative restrictions imposed by the statute to which I have recently adverted.

The law of settlement was also obviously another great check to the extension of the apprentice system. As time rolled on, parishes in which factories were situated, which had been worked by this description of labour, found themselves, in many cases, grievously burthened, by having, in the course of a few years, large families brought home to them, the offspring of persons who had gained settlements by virtue of their apprenticeship. The master, usually a large rate-payer, of course had to bear his proportion of the burthen; in addition to which he had frequently to encounter the hostility and disapprobation of his neighbours, upon whom he had been mainly instrumental in imposing the remaining part.

In the few factories in which apprentices are still employed, I find nothing in their condition to lead me to regret that the practice has so much diminished. They are, with few exceptions, a dispirited and discontented class, infinitely worse clad, and less happy and respectable in their appearance than the children of the same ages who are their fellow workpeople in the same factories. Universally regarded as a distinct class, lower in the scale of society than, and usually kept and living apart from, their companions in labour, they appear even to estimate themselves almost as lowly as they are regarded by others.

The incentive to industry and good conduct, which almost naturally flows from labour independently and willingly afforded, and proportionately remunerated, is lost, where the young person feels himself in a state of bondage, almost deprived of personal liberty, and regarding himself as only being fed that his physical strength and capacity may be adequate to the work expected to be wrung from him; without possessing either a motive to improve, or ambition to excel, he probably endeavours to do as little as possible; and the interests of his employer running in an exactly contrary direction, as he would get as much as he can at as little expense, it is obvious that such conflicting influences are likely to produce anything but satisfactory results.

Nor do the evils terminate with the apprentice indenture. The effect upon the future characters and dispositions of persons who have passed in such a school, and under such discipline, that portion of their lives in which the mind receives its bent, under circumstances which destroy those very springs of independence from which industry must flow, and render distasteful that which it is so essential to excite and cherish, is too frequently to produce the abuse of the liberty to which they are restored the moment they get possession of it; regarding themselves as freed from what they have only considered as the thraldom of labour, they will have recourse to any means to obtain a livelihood, rather than to those which have become so irksome and unpleasant to them; and if such a return could be procured, I have little doubt it would be found that a very small proportion of the children who have been apprenticed in factories have availed themselves of the knowledge they have therein acquired, as a means of future livelihood.

It is not, however, in factories only that the apprentice system works unsatisfactorily.

Appendix (B.)

No. 20.
Report of
R. M. Muggeridge, Esq.

There are evils equally great attendant upon it in some of the agricultural districts, upon which the Board are no doubt in possession of much more valuable information than any I could presume to offer.

The arrangements which have been made for the employment of parish children under a guardian, selected by the Union or parochial authorities, will, doubtless, if found to work well, still further tend to explode the remnant of the apprentice system in factories; because, by them the manufacturer gains exactly what he wants, namely, the labour of the young persons, without the responsibility and anxiety which that system attaches to him.

This description of labourers usually forms nearly an equal proportion of the whole number of hands employed in a factory, and a large majority in those engaged in the throwing and manufacture of silk. A recent Parliamentary Return makes the total number of persons employed throughout the kingdom as follows:

	Under 18 Years Age.	Above 18 Years of Age.	TOTAL.
Cotton - - - - - -	94,257	125,877	220,134
Wool - - - - - -	34,572	36,702	71,274
Silk - - - - - -	18,525	12,157	30,682
Flax - - - - - -	17,309	15,974	33,283
	164,663	190,710	353,373

Of the above number, 35,867 were between 12 and 13 years of age when the return was made; and as all these persons are restricted to eight hours daily labour (instead of 12) from the 1st of March last, an increased demand for young hands of this description will probably arise from this increased restriction.

It is important, also, that the Board should know, that of this latter number, 13,362 are working in mills in Lancashire, 7,904 in Yorkshire, 3,463 in Cheshire, and 1,281 in Derbyshire, making a total of 26,010 in the districts to which migration is mainly directed.

I have forwarded several reports that the deputations to the manufacturing counties, from different parts of the kingdom, have made, on returning to their Unions or parishes*, because I consider them valuable, as coming from individuals totally unconnected with each other; who all visited the district with one object, namely, that of obtaining the fullest information respecting the employment it was said to be ready to afford, and the conditions on which it was attainable; who visited different parts of it at different times; who saw, personally, the migrants, some at their homes, others at their work; who questioned them on almost every variety of subject affecting them; and whose judgment and opinions of what they saw and heard may fairly be presumed to have been recorded without bias or interest. All concur in recommending migration, and all point out in different language, but from varied causes, the advantage it has already produced and the benefits it may be expected ultimately to yield.

The intelligent report made by Lieut-Colonel Bence (a county magistrate) and Mr. Lay, a deputation from the Blything Union, Suffolk, is valuable, because these gentlemen therein set out by stating that their only object is "to detail facts with truth, fidelity and accuracy," and not to write up a favourable case. They offer, therefore, few opinions, but after the most patient and laborious research, evinced by the number of places and persons they visited and examined, they come to the conclusion that, if properly qualified persons be selected, "it will not admit of a doubt that migration will add very greatly to the comfort of families;" adding, "especially as contentment has been found to exist in almost every instance" which came under their notice.

It may, however, very probably be urged that the means of employment here are of a transient and not a permanent character; that although labour is in demand in 1836, it does not follow that it may be so in 1837; that the present prosperity and activity of the manufacturing and commercial interests may be followed by depression and stagnation; and, therefore, that it is well worthy consideration what may be the condition of the migrated families in the event of such contingencies arising. I feel this to be a question of vital importance, and that upon the solution of it depends, to a great degree, the policy or impolicy of the encouragement which has been afforded to home migration.

As regards the families who have been located through the instrumentality of the Commission, it is not, however, a question of immediate bearing. With one or two exceptions, every family I have brought down are engaged for three years; they are, therefore, (subject only to the casualty of bankruptcy on the part of the employer, or incapacity for labour on account of sickness, which would apply to them as well in one county as in another,) sure of work and wages for that period; and those who know much of the condition of the lower classes of the people in the southern counties, and how far the demand for their labour has fallen short of the supply, particularly in the winter months, will not deem constant and regular employment, at good wages, even for that period a boon of inconsiderable value to them. If, however, at the termination of their contracts, all the evils which can be

* Supplement, p. 428.

be predicted should be realized, and depression shall have displaced activity to such an extent as to render it necessary that the employers should limit or decrease the number of their hands, it by no means necessarily follows that the migrated families are to become the first victims of so disastrous a change. They will long ere that time have ceased to be regarded as a distinct class, and will have merged into the community of workpeople, of which they form a part; the younger branches of their families will have become as skilled in their respective occupations as their competitors born in the neighbourhood of the factory; and it is not too much, I think, to expect that the place of birth will be considered the very last criterion by which the employer would judge of the propriety of retaining or discharging a workman when reducing his establishment.

Carrying even the prediction to its farthest possible extent of evil, by assuming that the worst befals the migrated family that can happen to them, namely, that they are discharged at the termination of their contracts, and unable to find work elsewhere, I am not aware that, even under such circumstances, they do worse than revert to the condition in which they usually were before their migration. They may again become recipients of, and dependants on, parochial bounty; not, as I am afraid they have been previously in too many cases, almost, if not entirely, from choice, but from necessity. They will not be induced to cling to parochial assistance longer than they really require it, from having enjoyed the advantages of three years' independence; or be less likely to succeed in finding fresh employment from almost every member of the family having in that period acquired the knowledge of a trade, and the means of self support, with habits of regularity and industry.

The expenses of their outfit and their removal will, it is true, have been incurred in these cases, should any such unfortunately arise, without having produced the full measure of good expected to have resulted from them; but as a set-off on the other side of the question may fairly be placed, the three years' employment which the pauper and his family will have gained by their migration, during which time it is probable they would not have been to any extent burthensome or an expense to their parishes.

It remains to examine the prospect that exists of such a state of things being actually realized.

In the first place I may venture to affirm, without fear of contradiction, that the extent of migration, which has already taken place, has been but as a drop of water to a river, towards the supply of the demand that now actually exists in these districts for additional labour.

The families already provided for have, in almost every instance, merely been taken experimentally; and many employers who have taken one or two, have assured me that they are requiring from 10 to 20; and that if they find that those they have, are adapted to their work, that they turn out satisfactorily, or, to use their own term, "settle down comfortably," (for it is quite as essential to the successful working of the system that the migrant should be as well satisfied as the master,) that then they shall become importers of southern labour upon a much more extensive scale.

At present the system has not been long enough in operation to enable most of them to determine upon this point, but I augur most confidently that their expectations will not be disappointed, from the fact that almost every employer who, upon my first coming into the district, took a single family, has subsequently, from time to time, engaged others. I have already offered to the Board the reasons why I think migration should be carried on progressively; as regards the employers individually, it is absolutely requisite they should so regulate it, because a large influx of fresh hands or learners would, independently of the expense of teaching them, create infinite confusion in their establishments.

From those with whom I have already negotiated, I anticipate, therefore, a very considerable increased demand, and this will doubtless be much further extended if I am enabled to make it more generally known that a supply is ready to be afforded to meet it*. As yet, with the necessary attention to the numerous details of my office, and the extensive correspondence I have to carry on, I have found it utterly impracticable to visit personally many parts of the district, although I am informed they are thin of population and wanting hands.

I have, moreover, until very recently directed migration, under the authority of the Commissioners, solely to the manufactories. I await instructions to branch it into other channels. The extensive shoe manufacturers at Sandbach and that part of Cheshire are now importing, through the agency, the unemployed persons who are acquainted with their trade. Bleachers, coal-merchants, paper-makers and others in large concerns are also beginning to avail themselves of the assistance offered them; and several of the contractors for railroads in progress have relieved me of considerable numbers of able-bodied young men.

From this latter source I anticipate, at no distant day, the entire absorption of all the surplus able-bodied labour of the country. The extent of employment afforded by these stupendous works of art, may be in some measure judged of from the fact that on one of them only, the London and Birmingham, upwards of 7,700 labourers were engaged at the commencement of the month of May, and that 1,054,642 *l.* had been expended on that undertaking up to the close of the past year. Assuming that these 7,700 men were averaging

* This has not always been the case. I have frequently been without a single really eligible family to recommend, and at the present time I have but very few large families, which are those the most sought after, and which usually do the best by migrating.

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Report of
R. M. Muggeridge, Esq.

ing 15*s.* each weekly, and this I am assured is far below the mark, it proves the enormous amount of 300,300 *l.* being paid annually for labour only by this one undertaking.

The necessary legislative sanction has been obtained for several works of this kind in this district. The Leeds and Manchester railway, connecting these important towns, passes through a line of country where at the present moment there is not an able-bodied man out of employ who is willing to work.

The North Midland, the Midland Counties, the Selby and Hull, and other minor operations of the same character, are also in progress of being carried into effect; and these also traverse districts almost as highly favoured by the plenty of employment already existing. The estimated outlay of these several undertakings amounts to upwards of 6,000,000 *l.*, a vast proportion of which will be paid for labour only*.

In connection with this subject, it should be forcibly impressed upon boards of guardians and others selecting labourers for employment on the railroads, that greater care than has been heretofore observed is absolutely essential in making such selections. In some instances lads of 16 and 17 years of age, mere striplings in appearance, have been sent down for this work, and of course very soon found themselves incompetent to perform the labour assigned them.

On the contrary, in cases where I have been favoured with the assistance of gentlemen who have been kind enough to interest themselves on the subject (among whom I would particularly and thankfully name the Duke of Richmond and Sir Edward Kerrison, bart.), persons properly qualified have been selected. They have found themselves equal to the work and pleased with it, and their employers have expressed perfect satisfaction to me.

It is very desirable that in every case only young men should be selected who are strong and industrious and unmarried; because, as the lines of railway frequently pass through tracts of country where lodgings are difficult to meet with, the accommodations are insufficient for married persons.

The circular addressed some months since by the Board to the clerks of the several Unions through which the London and Birmingham line traversed, I find to have produced the effect intended, by having directed the attention of the guardians to the railroad as a source of employment for their able-bodied poor. Many have been thus provided for.

I should recommend the same course being adopted with respect to the Great Western, connecting Bristol with London, which is just getting into operation; and with the other lines throughout the country, as they are set in progress.

As regards the increased demand likely to arise for additional labour in the manufactories, the expectations of Dr. J. P. Kay †, founded upon the valuable information he obtained last year, appear likely to be fully realized. The estimate he made of the probable extent of the demand, vast as it was, is not, I think, over-rated.

The great obstacle, however, to a more rapid importation of families, apart from the various reasons which I have already assigned as influencing this part of the subject, has been no doubt the great want of accommodation which exists for the workpeople. In many places it is almost impossible to procure a cottage.

The heads of large establishments have themselves, in numerous instances, forborne to build, in the expectation that so manifestly advantageous a return for capital so expended, would have been taken advantage of by others. Where this is not found to be the case, they are now erecting cottages. One employer has laid the foundation of upwards of 200, and I am assured that altogether more than 10,000 cottages are now in progress of erection in this and the immediately adjoining counties.

I cannot draw my report to a close without observing, that I consider by far the most important question connected with the system, either as regards its present or future policy, is the effect it has had upon the health of the persons newly introduced into the district, and particularly those engaged in factory labour; because, if it appeared that the experiment had or was likely to trench upon vital economy, I am satisfied that neither public nor private interest would, for one moment longer than this result was proved to have been produced, be permitted by the Board to urge its continuance under their sanction.

With the view of obtaining the most accurate information on the subject, I have procured from the whole of the persons who have afforded employment to migrant families, through my agency, a return‡ of the total number of deaths which have taken place since their location in the district, distinguishing the mortality among those actually engaged in factory labour. The result is as follows:

Total number of persons located, 2,673.

Total number of deaths since location, 14.

Of whom were,

Adults, male	1
Adults, female	2
Young persons engaged in factory labour	2
Children under nine years of age and unemployed	9
	14

Of

* Supplement, p. 432.

† *Vide* First Annual Report of the Commission, Appendix, p. 308.

‡ For Form of Return, *see* Supplement, p. 432.

Of whom died of,	
Small pox (engaged in factory)	1
Ditto - (not engaged in factory)	2
Hooping-cough (all under seven years of age)	4
Inflammation (engaged in factory)	1
Typhus fever (mother and infant)	2
Ague (each under three years old)	2
Fever (woman)	1
Decline (three years old)	1
	14

With the exception of the small-pox, which several of the families have had, I am not aware of any disorder or sickness with which the migrated families in particular have been afflicted.

An inquiry upon so important a point as the general state of health of the persons who have migrated, would, I should have imagined, almost naturally have suggested itself to the several deputations who have visited them for the purpose solely of inquiring into their condition, yet their reports present no evidence upon this subject; and had change of residence or climate, or the labour of the factories, produced ill health or mortality to any extent, it is scarcely conceivable that information so deeply important, even if unsought, would have been withheld from those whom they were aware came on purpose to make inquiries about their welfare. The returns, therefore, that I have received from the employers, the correctness of which I have not the slightest reason to doubt, may, I think, be considered as confirmed by the absence of any mention of serious illness in the reports made by the deputations.

That the extensive demand for labour throughout this portion of the country, proved to exist at present, has existed for a considerable period, the extraordinary immigration which has taken place annually from the sister kingdom abundantly testifies.

I am endeavouring to estimate as accurately as possible the extent to which this has been carried, by ascertaining the number of Irish actually located in this and the immediately adjoining counties; but though these returns, if I am enabled to complete them, may show how vast has become the admixture of Irish with the native population, they will furnish no data (from not having been taken at any earlier period) by which the Board may judge the rate, per annum, at which this migration from Ireland has been going on.

Through the kind co-operation of Lieutenant Low, R. N., the government agent for colonial emigration at Liverpool, I have obtained a return from that part of the total number of deck passengers who arrived from and returned to Ireland during the past year*, by which it will be observed that the excess of arrivals over departures amounted to 18,226.

I obtained a similar return from Bristol†, another great point of debarkation from the sister kingdom. This is curious, as showing an opposite result, the departures exceeding the arrivals by 1,122.

It is accounted for by the fact that considerable numbers of the lower classes of Irish come over to the small ports on the Welsh coast, such as Swansea, Neath, Cardiff, &c., in the colliers which return from Ireland in ballast. These persons walk or beg their way into the central counties of England for harvest work, and having by their industry during that period acquired a few pounds, they take the advantage which their possession of means affords them, and return home *via* Bristol, by the regular packets. When leaving Ireland, it is seldom that any number of them have the means of coming by this route, which is more expensive than the passage by Liverpool, and infinitely more so than by the vessels to which I have before adverted.

I had hoped to have put the Board into possession of the exact extent of the emigration which had taken place during the past year from all parts of Ireland to this country, but I found it utterly impracticable, consistent with due attention to the main duties of my appointment here, and the difficulty with which accurate information on the subject is attainable, to perfect such a return in time for the present report.

On the whole, it may be stated that the manufactures of this part of the country have been continually growing, sometimes indeed more rapidly than at others, but still always advancing; and that the present scarcity of labour is not of sudden but of gradual growth, and has been long foretold and expected by the most intelligent of the manufacturers.

It remains only to observe, that from the numerous magistrates, clergymen and gentlemen, and from the several boards of guardians with whom I have been in communication, I have received the most valuable co-operation and assistance. The regularity and method with which I have found all the transactions of the latter, connected with migration, conducted, afford a very striking contrast to the mode in which the same matters have been managed by parishes not at present in Union.

That these advantages will become daily more and more apparent, I have the fullest confidence and hope. No pains shall be spared on my part to give efficacy and value to the benevolent designs of the Board, in the assurance that efforts, however humble, which tend in any degree to mitigate the miseries and degradation of pauperism; to elevate the poor man

* Supplement, p. 432. † Ib. p. 433.

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man from the demoralization attendant upon a state of dependence and charity, which point out to him and assist him in carrying his only possession, his labour, to the best market, will never be considered unworthy or fruitless, even should circumstances limit them to a narrower field of usefulness than, I trust, they may be destined to occupy.

I have, &c. *Richard M. Muggeridge*,
P. L. C. Agent for Home Migration.

Supplement to Mr. Muggeridge's Report.

Letters from Migrants.

Letters from Migrants.

Mr. Muggeridge, Sir, Vale Mill, Heywood, 2 July 1836.

I beg leave to trouble you with sending a few lines, trusting to your former kindness that you will be kind enough to read them.

I have to inform you that I am one of the migrants from Suffolk; being directed to you as the agent in Manchester, I think it right to state to you how we have been since we came under your protection. We were very kindly sent by you from Manchester to Heywood, where we arrived on the Sunday night. You had been kind enough to acquaint our master with our arrival, as it appeared to us afterward; for when we got to Heywood, we found a very comfortable cottage provided for us, and though it was Sunday, we got everything that made us as comfortable as our circumstances would admit, and I am very glad to inform you that we have been very kindly treated with our neighbours ever since we came, and I must say that I never in my life met with so much kindness and good-nature. My family was not well for a few days at the first, and I shall never forget the friendly feeling that we experienced during the time, for they brought us everything that was likely to make us comfortable; but after a few days we got quite well, and have enjoyed good health ever since; but above all, Sir, I am very glad that we have got a very good master; we all like the work very well, and the workpeople are all very kind to us, both in the mill and out, and I have nothing to regret, only that we did not come sooner. In conclusion, Sir, we return you our most sincere and heartfelt thanks, which fall far short of the many favours we have received from you. We wish you good health, and may you enjoy all the pleasures of this world, and joy and peace in the world to come. I remain, &c.

David Walker.

Mr. Muggeridge, Sir, Vale Mill, Heywood, 20 July 1836.

Allow me to acknowledge my obligation to you in placing me in the present situation I now am in, which place I like very well, for the neighbours are all very kind and free, for which I return you my most sincere thanks, which are far short of repaying what is already due to you. I remain, &c.

At Messrs. James Clegg & Co. *Susan Markham.*

Extract of a Letter from *James* and *Elizabeth French*, who migrated from *Hoxne* Union, *Suffolk*, to the employ of Messrs. *Greenwood & Brothers*, of *Mytholmroyd Bridge*, near *Halifax*: addressed to Mr. *John Pettet*, grocer and draper, *Altrington*, near *Eye*, *Suffolk*.

" 20 April 1836.

" We are all well, thank God for it. We have all according to the agreement. We have met with no disappointments. There is no fear of work here if it be contracted for, and by reason of contracts you will be sure of work; but if you come of your own heads perhaps you will not happen of a master. Men's wages run from 10*s.* to 25*s.* per week, and such as shoemakers, carpenters and tailors are scarce in the country.

" We have a house quite as large as yours; and, dear father, we are not disappointed. Here is a good living for the working hands, and the work agrees very well with all our families."

Copy of a Letter from a late Suffolk Labourer, now resident in Lancashire, addressed to *Gill Stedman*, Esq., of Pakenham, in that county.

Sir,—With pleasure I can announce to you that I am perfectly satisfied with my situation under Mr. Ashton. I delayed writing to you longer than my promise, but I did it to find the ways and rules of the country, so that I could state to you all particulars; and I can assure you that I have met with every indulgence from Mr. Ashton and Son, and likewise the inhabitants of the place, that any man can wish for. Mr. Ashton came to me on the 18th day of January, to the place where I was at work, and he asked if my name was Peck, from Pakenham, and I told him it was, and we entered into conversation about my country. He said, I dare say you came up with a bad heart, and I told him I did, as I had seen different accounts in the newspapers that I could not tell how it might be till I got here and found it out. He said they do not state the real facts in the papers, and it was a pity they did not, for it made people afraid to come. I then asked him if he wanted any more families, and he said, yes he did, a plenty of good ones such as mine he would gladly accept, for we are considered by him and by all the inhabitants of the place to be the finest family that ever was brought into Hyde. This was the first time I had seen old Mr. Ashton to speak

to

to him. This I can state to you the fact, and he said there were other masters that wanted a plenty as well as himself, that if you have any other family or families desirous of coming, they may meet with work and good wages here; for here is plenty of new factories building all round this country for miles; that thousands of families will be wanted this spring; if they can get themselves up here they will be sure of situations, for our master have now ten new cottages can be fitted up directly, and a going to build fourteen more this spring, and another new factory. It is families that they want; if they can bring three fit for work they may obtain a decent living here. I have five at work at the factory, and my two girls have 1*l.* 10*s.*, my boys 1*l.* 10*s.*, and myself 1*l.* 4*s.* a fortnight, that is our reckoning once a fortnight. My employment is working in a stone pit, assisting in getting large stones for building; we work from light till dark in the winter season, and in summer season they work from six till six, two hours allowed out of that for meals; and in the factories they work from six till half-past seven, two hours allowed out of that for meals. Every thing of the provisions are much the same price as in Suffolk; cottage rents are rather high, 3*s.* 6*d.* per week; but they are completely fitted up, and plenty of room; a large kitchen and back kitchen with water let in by a tap, that we have no trouble for water; and the cottages are all close by the factories, that we can all go home to our meals; that no families do not want to be afraid to come here, for the children are treated very kind. All my family are very pleased with their employment, and I myself am highly gratified to think I can now live by my labour, instead of being a parish pauper as when in Suffolk, for that was a burthen to my spirits for many years. I have often wished I could obtain some employment for myself and family, so that I could live by my labour; and now, thank God, I have, and if it please God that my family all have their health and do well, in the course of two or three years we shall be able to make by our work more than 150*l.* a year, should trade flourish as it do at this time, as they tell me there is no other doubt but it will.

I remain your humble servant,

Hyde, Jan 22, 1836. *James Peck.*

Extract from *S. Markham*'s Letter.

"When we got to Heywood we found a very comfortable cottage provided for us. I have to inform you that I like both the place where we live and the work I have to do. The people in this part of the country are very kind and civil; the neighbours are all very kind to us, both in the mill and out. My wages are 6*s.* for the first year, 6*s.* 6*d.* for the second, and 7*s.* 6*d.* for the third; and I am paying Mr. Walker 4*s.* a week for my board, which leaves me 2*s.* for myself. I have received 10*s.* from our master, that enables me to buy a new gown, &c. I do not know that I would like to work abroad now. I would rather work in the mill than in the field. We have a baptist meeting-house close by, where we all go on a Sunday. James is very glad he came; he is getting 7*s.* 6*d.* a week and his board; and so long as he can do that he will never come to Suffolk again."

Extract from *John Brett*'s Letter.

"I arrived here with my family all well. I was immediately put to work in the factory, and five of my children. The employment for the first week or two was strange and rather irksome, but after that time neither myself nor children experienced any unpleasantness. My present master, who is very kind to me, employs between 400 and 500 hands in the factory in which we work, and every thing is carried on with the greatest regularity. I know it is said with you that factory children are badly used, that they are cruelly used by the overlookers, that they are overworked for their age, and obliged to labour 14 or 15 hours each day; I can assure you that this is not the case; my children work twelve hours for five days, and nine hours on Saturdays; and the overlookers never beat them. With regard to the healthiness of the employment, I can say this, that during the time we have been here, about four months, my family has been very healthy, and that with having better food, and better clad, they look much better than they did. Both me and the family have now regular wages, and are well clothed and well fed, and have regular work."

Extract from *M. Spalding*'s Letter.

"The reason I did not write before was I was waiting till I was confined. I have had a fine boy, and he is nine weeks old. The midwife would not charge anything, and my mistress was along with me all the time; my mistress was very kind to me. Flour has risen, and the master has risen the wages. William likes his place better than Thorndon. He gets 8*s.* a week, Sarah, 5*s.*, Ann, 3*s.* 6*d.*, Maria, 4*s.*, and Mary, 4*s.* I am sorry you are badly off; I wish you were with us, and then you would be better off. The master has given us a piece of land."

Extract of a Letter from *James Mills*, in the employ of Mr. *Moses Cheetham*, of *Heywood*.

"I like the place very well; indeed, I have nothing to dislike, for the master is very kind to us, and the neighbours are all very kind. My family like the work very well, and I like mine very well. I am led to think that the people in this part of the country are more kind than they are with you. Mr. Cheetham gave us our victuals for the first week; we got them at his table, and in his parlour. We live about 200 yards from David Walker, and about the same from Curtis. David and us are very comfortable together, and on good terms. We only wish that we had come sooner."

TERMS of EMPLOYMENT made for 100 Families.

Number.	NAME of MIGRANT.	Number of Workers in Family.	From whence Migrating.	Where Located.	Proposed Weekly Wages. First Year.	Second Year.	Third Year.	REMARKS.
					s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
1	Cawthorne, John	6	Norfolk	Cheshire	35 6	41 –	47 6	
2	Abbott, John	10	Suffolk	ditto	59 6	66 6	79 6	- - Refused to come.
3	Pendal, Samuel	4	ditto	Derbyshire	19 6	22 –	26 –	
4	Taylor, George	7	ditto	Lancashire	38 6	44 –	52 6	
5	Tennant, Thomas	6	ditto	ditto	36 –	41 6	47 –	
6	Lane, John	5	Berkshire	ditto	31 –	35 –	39 –	
7	Bransom, Mark	5	Bucks	Cheshire	29 6	34 6	39 6	
8	Minney, William	5	ditto	ditto	27 6	32 6	37 6	
9	French, James	7	Suffolk	Yorkshire	36 –	45 –	51 6	
10	Halls, Samuel	7	ditto	Lancashire	35 –	39 6	49 –	
11	Seymor, James	5	Berks	ditto	26 6	32 –	35 6	
12	Honneyball, C.	5	Suffolk	Yorkshire	27 –	29 –	32 –	
13	Pearl, John	5	ditto	ditto	32 –	40 –	45 6	
14	Balaam, John	6	ditto	ditto	38 –	44 –	50 –	
15	Driver, Richard	10	ditto	ditto	46 –	51 –	56 –	
16	Broadhurst, C.	4	Hampshire	Lancashire	22 –	25 –	32 –	
17	Cocksedge, John	5	Suffolk	Derbyshire	24 6	30 –	35 6	
18	Warner, Samuel	5	Berkshire	Lancashire	25 –	29 –	32 6	
19	Curtis, James	8	Suffolk	ditto	40 6	45 –	55 –	
20	Thorp, Robert	6	ditto	Derbyshire	32 –	38 6	44 6	
21	Goldsmith, John	6	ditto	ditto	29 –	35 –	41 6	
22	Miles, James	6	ditto	Lancashire	35 –	39 –	43 6	
23	Bloomfield, James	5	ditto	Cheshire	30 –	35 –	40 –	
24	Jay, Robert	6	ditto	Lancashire	29 6	36 –	42 –	
25	Barker, James	4	Wiltshire	ditto	20 –	26 –	26 –	
					805 –	936 –	1080 6	
26	Walker, David	6	Suffolk	Lancashire	29 6	36 –	42 –	
27	Titmus, James	4	ditto	ditto	24 6	27 –	30 6	And livery.
28	Bishop, Thomas	5	Kent	Derbyshire	21 6	26 –	31 –	
29	Self, James	4	Suffolk	Lancashire	31 6	36 6	42 6	
30	Rudland, Samuel	6	ditto	ditto	27 –	29 6	33 6	
31	Higgs, James	7	Hampshire	ditto	40 6	45 –	49 6	
32	England, Joseph	5	Suffolk	Derbyshire	30 –	37 6	44 6	
33	Mills, John	7	ditto	Lancashire	29 –	35 –	41 –	
34	Rayner, William	6	ditto	ditto	24 –	29 –	36 –	
35	Smith, Stephen	6	ditto	ditto	22 –	26 –	31 –	
36	Lister, William	5	ditto	ditto	25 –	29 –	35 –	
37	Lister, John	5	ditto	ditto	22 6	25 6	29 6	
38	Moore, William	6	Bucks	ditto	43 –	51 –	56 6	
39	Coxhill, William	5	ditto	ditto	29 6	33 6	38 –	
40	Paxman, Thomas	7	Suffolk	ditto	25 –	30 –	34 –	
41	Bew, James	5	Berkshire	ditto	30 6	36 6	42 6	
42	Wilkins, Thomas	5	Oxfordshire	Cheshire	19 –	20 9	22 9	
43	Spall, John	6	Suffolk	Lancashire	29 –	33 6	38 6	
44	Larter, John	5	ditto	ditto	26 –	31 –	36 –	
45	Ellis, James	6	ditto	ditto	29 –	34 6	40 –	
46	Youngman, T.	6	ditto	ditto	40 –	44 6	51 6	
47	Scott, Nathaniel	6	ditto	ditto	27 6	32 6	37 6	
48	Rason, Thomas	7	ditto	ditto	25 6	29 6	34 6	
49	Daldon, John	5	ditto	ditto	26 6	31 6	36 6	
50	Chatton, John	5	ditto	ditto	43 6	49 –	53 –	
					721 –	839 9	967 3	
51	Welham, John	5	Suffolk	Lancashire	26 –	29 6	34 –	
52	Sadler, David	5	Essex	ditto	24 6	28 –	34 6	
53	Stallery, John	4	Suffolk	ditto	22 –	26 –	32 6	
54	Harvey, John	5	ditto	ditto	29 –	33 6	41 –	
55	Baker, John	8	Kent	ditto	38 6	45 –	52 6	
56	Goodenham, C.	6	Suffolk	ditto	32 6	38 –	44 –	
57	Cracknall, James	6	ditto	ditto	32 6	37 6	43 6	
58	Daniels, Francis	7	ditto	ditto	41 –	47 –	53 –	
59	Aylerd, James	6	ditto	ditto	25 6	29 6	34 6	
60	Friend, John	5	Norfolk	ditto	23 6	28 6	32 –	
61	Baldry, William	6	Suffolk	ditto	27 6	33 6	37 6	
62	Clarke, William	5	ditto	ditto	25 6	30 6	34 –	

Number.	NAME of MIGRANT.	Number of Workers in Family.	From whence Migrating.	Where Located.	Proposed Weekly Wages. First Year.	Second Year.	Third Year.	REMARKS.
					s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
63	Barham, J. - -	5	Suffolk -	Lancashire	28 6	33 –	38 6	
64	Batten, James -	5	Cambridgesh.	ditto -	27 –	31 6	34 6	
65	Pyott, Charles -	5	Suffolk -	ditto -	26 –	31 –	37 6	
66	Staff, William - -	5	ditto -	ditto -	25 –	29 6	33 6	
67	Rawliston, John -	5	ditto -	ditto -	30 –	33 6	36 6	
68	Crop, Michael -	4	Bedfordshire	Derbyshire	19 6	21 6	26 –	
69	Brett, John - -	6	Suffolk -	Lancashire	29 6	36 –	42 –	
70	Dorking, William -	6	Essex -	ditto -	28 6	34 –	40 –	
71	Wilkins, James -	5	Suffolk -	Cheshire -	22 –	26 –	30 –	
72	Witney, Richard -	4	Oxfordshire	Lancashire	24 –	28 –	32 6	
73	Page, Thomas -	6	Suffolk -	Yorkshire -	31 –	34 6	42 –	
74	Gibens, Charles -	5	Sussex -	Lancashire	20 –	25 –	29 6	
75	Allen, John - -	5	Bucks -	ditto -	20 6	23 6	27 6	
					679 6	793 6	953 –	
76	Noble, John - -	5	Wiltshire -	Cheshire -	23 6	28 6	33 6	
77	Mills, William -	4	Suffolk -	ditto -	27 6	34 6	38 6	- - Third year
78	Ashkettle, J. - -	6	ditto -	Lancashire	36 –	41 6	47 6	not fixed, say
79	Bradstrut, J. - -	5	ditto -	ditto -	22 –	26 –	31 –	at least 38/6.
80	Daws, Robert - -	7	ditto -	ditto -	35 –	39 6	45 6	
81	Knott, James - -	5	Kent -	ditto -	25 –	29 6	34 6	
82	Silver, Jonathan -	5	Suffolk -	ditto -	25 –	30 –	35 –	
83	Edwards, Robert -	5	Oxfordshire	ditto -	25 –	29 –	32 6	
84	Weavers, Robert -	3	Suffolk -	ditto -	21 –	23 6	—	
85	Haddock, N. - -	5	ditto -	ditto -	22 –	26 –	31 6	
86	Draper, A. - -	5	Bedfordshire	Cheshire -	25 6	31 6	36 –	
87	Spalding, G. - -	5	Suffolk -	Lancashire	25 6	29 –	32 –	
88	Ling, S. - - -	5	ditto -	ditto -	24 –	28 –	32 –	
89	Hollier, Thomas -	5	Oxfordshire	ditto -	24 –	29 –	34 –	
90	Bird, John - -	7	Suffolk -	ditto -	44 –	51 –	58 –	
91	Humphrey, W. -	7	Norfolk -	Cheshire -	26 3	29 3	32 3	
92	Unwin, James -	7	Essex -	ditto -	25 3	28 –	31 –	
93	Chance, S. - -	7	Bedfordshire	Lancashire	38 –	44 –	51 6	
94	Ravening, J. - -	7	Oxfordshire	Warwickshire	34 6	41 –	48 –	
95	White, Thomas -	5	Berkshire -	Cheshire -	29 6	32 6	35 6	
96	Cloughton, James -	6	Bucks -	ditto -	37 6	41 –	44 6	
97	Peck, James - -	5	Suffolk -	ditto -	33 –	36 –	39 –	
98	Loads, Robert -	7	Norfolk -	ditto -	39 6	43 6	47 6	
99	Smith, Jonathan -	6	Suffolk -	Lancashire	32 6	38 6	47 –	
100	Curzen, William -	5	Norfolk -	Cheshire -	31 –	36 6	40 –	
					732 –	846 9	937 9	

By casting these several amounts together, in yearly columns, and dividing them by 100, the number of families, it gives as an average for the

	s.	d.	
1st year - - - - -	29	4½	weekly wages.
2d - - - - - -	34	1	—
3d - - - - - -	39	4½	—

The wages, of course, fluctuate in particular places, and in the several varieties of employment.

The preceding table may be considered, from the various contracts I have made, about the average rate which the manufacturers offer to the southern families. These they bind themselves to pay, except in cases of sickness incapacitating for labour, whether the amount is actually earned by the young workpeople or not, which it seldom is for the first few months. Whenever they have acquired a degree of skill in their employment which enables them to earn more, and they have repaid the loss attendant upon the teaching of them, I scarcely know a single instance of a manufacturer not proportionably increasing their wages. Many of these families therefore are receiving larger remuneration than herein stated.

It is so obviously desirable for an employer to place all his workpeople upon one common footing, that he is always anxious to do so as speedily as he can; and in the few cases in which the migrated families do not already stand in that position, it is because they would be worse off if they did, and their earnings, if computed by piece-work, be less than the amount prescribed in their contracts for employment.

R. M. M.

Appendix (B.)

No 20.
Report of
R. M. Muggeridge, Esq.

Letters from Migrants.

Mr. Muggeridge, Sir, Derby, July 15, 1836.

Your letter of the 12th instant came to hand this morning, in answer to which (at your request) we state the following, concerning Thomas Bishop and family. After his arrival here the children were all employed in the mill, and allowed the wages agreed for; but as he said he had always been accustomed to agricultural labour, he was taken to Mr. Frost's house, where he was employed at such until he found out that he was obliged to work as hard as his fellow-labourer. He then said that he came here with an understanding that his work would be easy, and as his constitution was weak, he was not at all fitted for laborious work. During this time Mr. Frost allowed him 12*s.* per week, being 2*s.* more than agreed for. After remaining there a few weeks, not at all contented with his lot, he was employed at the mill to assist in dying silk, which we thought might suit him better. He remained at that employ but about a week, when he began to complain of the small allowance of wages which his children received, and said it was quite impossible to maintain them at the high rate of provisions and other necessaries, of which he said he had been misinformed by the Union; that he expected to have found provisions and coal at least 30 per cent. cheaper. He then requested that his children might have their wages raised, or he could not remain here. The time he was employed by us, you will observe, he received 12*s.* per week, instead of the 10*s.* agreed for, although we found him a very delicate man, and not that workman we anticipated.

He stated to us before he returned, that he was quite satisfied with us his employers, but that the remuneration was not adequate to his wants, and that he had been misinformed by "the Union," and therefore could not remain any longer in our employ.

Yours respectfully,

Frost and *Stevenson*, per *J. Allen*.

No. 1.—DESCRIPTIVE LIST of every Person, comprised in the Families of Persons chargeable to the *Plomesgate* UNION, in the County of *Suffolk*, desirous of Migrating to any part of the Country where an adequate subsistence may be obtained in return for their Labour.

Number of Family.	Name of each Member of the Family.	Age at last Birth Day.	HEIGHT. This is only required to be stated in cases of Children between 10 and 13 Years of Age.	To what Parish belonging.	CONDITION. If Adult, whether Widow or Widower. If Child, whether Orphan, Deserted Child, Foundling or Bastard.	Whether he has pursued any and what Calling, and for what Period.	Character as a Workman.	Moral Character.	Names and Description of Persons able, from their own knowledge, to certify to the Character of each Person.	How long known.	Whether the Family have Furniture, and if not, whether the Parish will render any assistance towards obtaining it.	Whether the Parish will, at its own expense, send the Family to its Employer.	REMARKS.

Note.—By the Factories Regulation Act, all Persons under nine years of age are prohibited from working in Cotton, Wool and Flax Manufactories. Children between 9 and 12 years of age are permitted to work, not exceeding nine hours in any one Day, or 48 hours Weekly, which restriction will extend to those under 13 years of age on the 1st March next. Most Manufacturers prefer engaging Persons above 12 years of age, as not interrupting the continuous course of daily employment in their Mills, which is usually 12 hours. In Silk Mills there is no restriction as to the age at which Children may be admitted; and in such Factories they are generally preferred at about eight years of age and upwards. Those under 12 years of age are, however, restricted to 10 hours daily employment.

The above information is given, that Boards of Guardians, and others, may be enabled to judge of the description of Family most likely to find employment in the Factories.

Form of Certificate as to Character.—(Required to accompany No. 1, Descriptive List.)

I, [*Here insert the Name and calling of the Person certifying*] residing at having of my own personal knowledge known at present belonging to the Parish of during years, [*Here insert any circumstances showing peculiar opportunities of obtaining knowledge*] do certify, that I believe to be a person of honest, industrious, sober and peaceable character, whom I would myself be willing to employ if I stood in need of the labour which is capable of performing.

Signature.
Address.

Dated this day of

No. 2.—WE, the Undersigned of in the County of are willing to engage the under-named Persons, at (not less than) the Weekly Rate of Wages affixed to their respective Names, for the Term of , subject to the usual Conditions entered into by Work-people in our Employment.

No. of Family.	Name of each Member of the Family.	To what Parish belonging.	Age.	Proposed Weekly Rate of Wages. 1st Six Mths.	2d Six Mths.	3d Six Mths.	4th Six Mths.	1st Year.	2d Year.	3d Year.	Will the Firm advance "all," "a part," or "none," of the Monies requisite to provide Furniture, in case it should be wanted by the migrating Family.	Time when the Family, or Families, will be required.	Number of Cottages at the under-mentioned Weekly Sums of Rent to be obtained in the Neighbourhood of the Factory. No. at 1s.	No. at 1s. 6d.	No. at 2s.	No. at 2s. 3d.	No. at 2s. 6d.	No. at 2s. 9d.	No. at 3s.	No. at 3s. 3d.	No. at 3s. 6d.	No. at 3s. 9d.	No. at 4s. & upwards.	Remarks.

Signature of Firm,
Date and Place of Abode,

Appendix (B.)

No. 20.
Report of
R. M. Muggeridge, Esq.

Migration Forms.

Manchester, 183 .

Sir,

I HAVE the pleasure of sending you herewith the particulars of an offer I have obtained for the employment of and I will thank you to inform me, as early as you can, whether the parties are willing to accept it, and about the period they may be expected to start for their destination.

You will be careful to transmit Form No. 3, previous to the departure of the migrating family; and Form No. 4 also, if they travel *viâ* London.

All communications for me should be transmitted under cover to the Poor Law Commissioners, London.

I have, &c.

Richard M. Muggeridge,
P. L. C. Migration Agent.

To

Sir,

IN transmitting you the accompanying offer of employment, I take the opportunity of calling your attention to the importance of seeing that the several members of the family comprised in the original description list be sent down, as I have received complaints that in some cases this essential regulation has not been attended to, and when the families have arrived they have been found to comprise more or less in number than those contracted for by the employer.

It is also very desirable that each member of a family should be sent decently clad, and with a Sunday change; and it would probably be very conducive to the health of the migrating family, if they were enabled to adopt a custom almost universal in this part of England, of protecting themselves by flannel under-garments. The young persons are usually employed in the manufactories (which are warm and comfortable) for several hours in the day; but in going to, or returning from, their labour or their meals, they are, of course, exposed to the out-door air; any unpleasant effects from the change to which, has been found to be in no way so effectually guarded against as by the use of flannel.

With regard to furniture, it is seldom found that the family migrating possess any worth the expense and trouble of removal, except their bedding. This, it is always desirable, they should bring with them, as being easy of transit, and expensive to purchase. The rest they should dispose of; but as the first thing they require on their arrival is furniture for their cottage, I would suggest that the board of guardians, or persons interested in the migration of the family, transmit from 3*l.* to 5*l.* to the employer, for its purchase. This, with the supply of clothing before adverted to, will give the family a fair start, and in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, except from any sudden or unforeseen calamity which cannot be guarded against, it will be their own faults if they are ever again dependent on the bounty or provision of others for their maintenance.

The money proposed to be given for the use of a migrating family, may be the most conveniently remitted by a draft upon a banker in London, in, or as part of a letter addressed to the employer, which may be sent under cover to the Poor Law Commissioners, from whose office it will be duly forwarded.

When the migrants proceed to their destination, *viâ* London, they will be met on their arrival there, by Mr. Marshall, an agent of the Commissioners, who will at once convey them from the waggon, or coach-office, to the canal boat by which they are to proceed to the north. These boats leave the City Basin, Paddington, every evening (Sundays excepted), and the cost of passage by them to Manchester is, for

Adults	14*s.*
Persons under 14 years of age	7*s.*
Under one year	gratis.

Each family is allowed 100 weight of luggage; above that quantity is charged 6*s.* per cwt. carriage.

Mr. Marshall must be apprised of the date and place of their expected arrival in London, by Form No. 4, Migration, being sent him previous to the departure of the family.

The passage from London to Manchester by canal is made in from four to five days, for which the migrating families must provide their own provisions. On reaching Manchester they should report their arrival to the Commissioners' agent, at his office in Lever-street.

Some Unions and parishes have adopted the practice of having their families vaccinated before they leave home; which I mention rather as a matter for the consideration of persons interested than as any prescribed rule absolutely required to be followed.

I may take this opportunity of stating, that the families for whom employment is the most readily obtained, are those comprising four or more children between 10 and 21 years of age; or widows with such description of families.

These suggestions have been submitted to, and are approved of by the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales.

Richard M. Muggeridge.

To

Form referred to in the preceding Instructional Letter.

No. 3.—DESCRIPTIVE LIST of every Person comprised in the Families of Persons chargeable to the Union, in the County of , sent by the (Canal, Coach or Waggon, as the case may be), to , and who may be expected to arrive at , on the Day of , about o'Clock.

Number of Family.	Name of each Member of the Family.	Age at last Birth-day.	List of Articles of Furniture sent with each Family.	Amount of Money sent to the Employer, to the Credit of each Migrating Family, to be applied under the Advice and Direction of the Agent for Migration at Manchester, in the Purchase of useful Articles of Furniture and Clothing.	Remarks.

Note—The above List, properly filled up, to be transmitted for the agent for migration at Manchester, five days preceding the departure of any family migrating; and a copy of the list for the employer who has engaged the family; both, under cover, to the Poor Law Commissioners.

Signature of Clerk of Union,

No. 4.—Descriptive List for the London Agent.

Descriptive List of every Person chargeable to the Union, in the County of , sent by (here state by Canal, Coach or Waggon, as the case may be), to , *viâ London*, and who may be expected to arrive at the (Inn or Waggon-office), Street, *London*, on the Day of , about o'Clock in the .

Number in Family.	Name of each Member of the Family.	Age last Birth-day.	List of Articles of Furniture sent with each Family.	Amount of Money to be given to the Migrant in London.	Whether the Parish authorize the London Agent to pay the Passage of the Migrant and his Family from London.	Remarks.

Note.—The above List, properly filled up, to be sent with the two copies of No. 3 Form, as therein directed, under cover, to the Poor Law Commissioners, Somerset-house, London.

The Cost of conveyance, by the canal boats, from London to Manchester, is,

For persons above 14 years of age - - - - 14 *s.* per head.
persons under 14 years of age - - - - 7 *s.* ditto.
children under 1 year - - - - - gratis.

Each family is allowed one hundred weight of luggage; above that weight is charged 6 *s.* per cwt.

London agents' commission, allowed by the Poor Law Commissioners, is, for persons above 14 years of age, 1 *s.* per head; under that age, 6 *d.* each, to be paid by the parish to which the migrants belong.

Letter from Rev. J. Austen, Pulborough, Sussex.

Sir, Pulborough, May 11th, 1836.

The carrier and van which conveyed the widow Smith and family to Bocester, and Ben. Hayler and family and William Parsons to Congleton, returned safe and well to Pulborough on the 11th day. Six days to Congleton and five days on the return; the expense for six persons 11 *l.*, and 5 *l.* for victualling, or 1 *l.* per head from Pulborough. The widow Smith and family have a very comfortable house and garden; and were approved of by Mr. Houldsworth, who received them kindly, and they were left satisfied and contented; B. Hayler and family were delivered at Havannah mills, Congleton, on Sunday, and Mr. Hobson set them to work the next day; the man on his farm at 12 *s.* weekly, so that his family are in the receipt of 24 *s.* 6 *d.* weekly; Mr. Hobson says, in a letter to me, they are likely to suit him. Mr. Hobson objects to give more to W. Parsons than 3 *s.*, 3 *s.* 6 *d.*, 4 *s.* for the three years; and the boy preferred staying to returning with the van; and the guardians have given him 2 *l.* I have sent him one sovereign, and will send the other to-morrow; and I shall be obliged to you to superintend his agreement, that he may remain with Ben. Hayler; paying him 3 *s.* weekly for his board and lodging, washing, &c.

The carrier went on to Hollingwood, and walked into G. Hayler's house to see the children, where he found them on Sunday evening reading their Bibles, and all clean, well dressed and comfortable; and he has brought back a most satisfactory account of the three parties, and the work and the wages; and this expedition has fully answered. He asked G. Hayler why he had not written or let the children write; and his reply was, that he was treated so ill by the people of Pulborough and neighbourhood, for coming to Manchester, that he was determined not to send any account, as they most probably would not believe him.

I am, &c. *John Austen.*

William and *R. Turner*'s Offer of Employment to the Children in *Bishop's Stortford* Workhouse.

We, William and Ralph Turner, of Helmshore, near Haslingden, in the county of Lancaster, agree to employ the within named girls, from the age at which they enter our employment until they shall have severally finished their 20th year, at the annexed progressive wages.

We require that a man and his wife, or a matron, of undoubted respectability and moral character, accompany them to attend to their food and clothing, and a due observance of their moral and religious duties; in fact, to act towards them the part of good parents.

Appendix (B.)

No. 20.
Report of
R. M. Muggeridge, Esq.

Should a man and his wife be selected, we will employ the man as an agricultural labourer at from 10 *s.* to 12 *s.* per week.

Much will depend on the selection of the guardians of these children, as to their future good conduct; therefore, it is urged that the parish be careful in its choice, and it must be stipulated that we may at any time examine into the state of the children's comforts and morals; and if we find that they are neglected in either of these particulars, that we may apply to the Union to discharge them and send others in their stead. The parish must send the children fully and decently clothed, and with a Sunday change; and provide us with the means of purchasing beds and bedding, together with every useful article for their cottage. This must be sent previous to their departure, that everything may be prepared for them, and when they shall severally have reached the age of 21, the furniture shall again be at the disposal of the parish from which they came.

We further propose that the man and his wife (or the matron, as it may be,) shall sign the within contract, thereby binding themselves on their own account, and on that of the children, to fulfil every part thereof upon the terms, and subject to the conditions herein set forth. (signed) *William* & *R. Turner*,
Helmshore, near Haslingden, Lancashire.

We make the same offer for the employment of the boys, except that it is absolutely necessary that a man and his wife accompany them. The man to be employed as an agricultural labourer.

W. & *R. Turner.*

NAMES.	Age.	WEEKLY EARNINGS PER YEAR.								
		1st.	2d.	3d.	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.	8th.	9th.
GIRLS:										
Lydia Sharp - -	12	2/6	3/	3/6	4/	4/6	5/	5/6	6/	6/6
Susan Thurley - -	12	2/6	3/	3/6	4/	4/6	5/	5/6	6/	6/6
Charlotte Sharp -	12	2/6	3/	3/6	4/	4/6	5/	5/6	6/	6/6
Elizabeth Edwards -	13	3/	3/6	4/	4/6	5/	5/6	6/	6/6	—
Mary White - -	13	3/	3/6	4/	4/6	5/	5/6	6/	6/6	—
Emma Kinsey - -	13	3/	3/6	4/	4/6	5/	5/6	6/	6/6	—
Elizabeth Boney -	14	3/6	4/	4/6	5/	5/6	6/	6/6	—	—
Esther Smith - -	14	3/6	4/	4/6	5/	5/6	6/	6/6	—	—
Charlotte Goodwin -	15	4/	4/6	5/	5/6	6/	6/6	—	—	—
Mary Sharp - -	17	4/6	5/	5/6	6/6	—	—	—	—	—
Mary Housland - -	17	4/6	5/	5/6	6/6	—	—	—	—	—
Total - - -		36/6	42/	47/6	54/	39/6	50/	47/6	37/6	19/6
A large cottage, at 2/6 weekly.										
BOYS:										
Samuel Pendred -	12	3/	3/6	4/	4/6	5/	5/6	6/	7/	8/
James Housland -	12	3/	3/6	4/	4/6	5/	7/6	6/	7/	8/
Charles Hestler - -	13	3/	3/6	4/	4/6	5/	6/	7/	8/	—
William Tayler - -	13	3/	3/6	4/	4/6	5/	6/	7/	8/	—
William Phillips -	13	3/	3/6	4/	4/6	5/	6/	7/	8/	—
William Hird - -	14	3/6	4/	4/6	5/	6/	7/	8/	—	—
Total - - -		18/6	20/6	24/6	26/6	31/	36/	41/	38/	16/
A cottage, at 2/ weekly.										

SAFFRON WALDEN UNION.

PARTICULARS of a REPORT given by Mr. *Matthew Winder*, one of the Guardians for the Parish of *Wimbish*, of the result of a Visit made, at the request of the Board of Guardians, to the Manufacturing Districts.

MR. WINDER left Walden on the 7th instant, and proceeded direct to Manchester, where, on application to Mr. Muggeridge, the recognized agent of the Poor Law Commissioners, he obtained a reference to several extensive manufacturers. At the rope manufactory of Messrs. Peter Taylor & Co., of Hollingwood, he was informed that they were not then in want of any additional hands; but he and the labourers* who accompanied him, had a long conversation with

* Robert Savill, of Wimbish, and Charles Forster, of Hempstead.

with two of the workmen,—one of whom, from Hadleigh in Suffolk, stated that the earnings of himself and family amounted to 36*s.* per week. This individual reported that he was quite satisfied with his change of residence; but the other did not seem so well contented, which may be accounted for by his having been there only a week, yet as a new hand his wages were 14*s.* a week, and his sister had, the day before, been taken into the house as a domestic servant.

Mr. Winder then proceeded to the large cotton factory at Stayley Bridge, belonging to Messrs. Harrison, who had in their service several families from the south of England, but they did not want any more at present. Mr. Ralph Hall, however, at the same place, informed him that he could find good employment for a number of brickmakers, and for young persons who would make themselves useful in the factory,—that his mill would on the day following be stopped for the want of a few hands,—and that brickmakers could earn 30*s.* per week and upwards, while young persons were paid according to the nature and value of their services.

Messrs. Bayley, cotton-manufacturers also, were then building very extensive factories. Mr. William Bayley said he should have no objection to receive some families in the spring, but that he could not at present engage any more. A lad in his employ reported that he would not go back again to his late abode, because he was so much better off than he had been in his own parish.

At Hyde, in Cheshire, Mr. Winder went to the factory of Mr. Thomas Ashton, by whom he was informed that he was in daily expectation of receiving a large family from Suffolk, and that if he wanted any more he should apply to the agent at Manchester. Mr. Ashton had in his service 1,275 persons.

After returning to Manchester, Mr. Winder proceeded to Oldham and Rochdale, at both of which places every person was in full employment, and several large factories were, he ascertained, then being built, the hands for which must be obtained from other districts.

By the advice of Mr. Muggeridge, Savill and Forster left Manchester to return home by way of Macclesfield, and there they learnt that every one had full employment.

Mr. Winder, on his quitting Manchester, proceeded to Huddersfield and Wakefield, in Yorkshire. At the former place it was reported to him that the crop of potatoes had not been taken up as the proper season owing to an absolute want of hands. And at both places agricultural labourers were required, whose wages would be from 12*s.* to 15*s.* per week, while their families, if of suitable ages, could obtain ample employment in the worsted factories.

At Leeds he was directed to Mr. Baker, agent to the Poor Law Commissioners for that district, and also a superintendent under the recent Act for regulating the working hours in the factories. Mr. Baker informed him that great numbers were required throughout the whole of the manufacturing district in Yorkshire, and that any families wishing to migrate thither would find immediate employment.

Mr. Winder returned home through Barnsley, Sheffield, Nottingham and Leicester, at all of which places every one had full employ.

In conclusion, he remarks that many factories are building in the districts he had visited; that he understood not fewer than 50 were building, or had been built within the space of 12 months; that at Rochdale, a manufacturer of machinery for the factories had on hand more orders than he could possibly complete in another 12 months; and that the manufacturers must have men from Ireland or other parts of the kingdom; while none were sent for through the Board's agents until the masters had houses for their immediate accommodation.

December 1835.

TO the Board of Guardians at *Ampthill* and *Woburn*.

Gentlemen,

BEING directed by your board to go through a part of the manufacturing districts, I left this place on Tuesday the 22d of September, and commenced my inquiries first at Derby. I there found an opening for children from 9 to 17, getting from 4*s.* to 6*s.* 6*d.* per week. A number of young persons, to the amount of 100, sent at different periods (say 10 every two or three weeks), could now be employed, and many more will be wanting early in the spring at the different mills of Messrs. Taylor, Bridgett and Moore, with other silk manufacturers.

From thence I proceeded to Ashbourne, where I found all hands in full employ, but no want, and the same at Leek. At Macclesfield labour might be found for some families, but the demand is not great, I therefore should not recommend this situation. At Mellor there is an opening for 10 or 15 children; widows with families might be sent; and homes would be provided for those without mothers with careful people. At Stockport two families might be sent, with as many children above 10 as can be found, to Mr. Robinson, of Spring Bank; and if they suit, two more, and no doubt more would follow.

Messrs. Marshall & Sons would be glad of a widow and family, and, provided the children were numerous, a family with a father would not be objected to. Mr. Smith, of Menley mills, will shortly have his mills completed, and his agent promised to take some families. Mr. Lane, of New Bridge-lane, Stockport, will also take some children. Mr. Orrell will shortly have his mill finished; and, if application is made to him, there is no doubt that hands may be got in.

Upon my arrival in Manchester I went to Mr. J. E. Taylor, who referred me to the Commissioner

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missioner appointed just now for emigration; finding one was fixed there, I did not think it right to proceed further until I had seen him. Upon an interview, he informed me where he had been; I also communicated to him where I had been, and what I had done: otherwise I should have visited Bolton, Chorley, Preston, Blackburne, Rochdale and Matlock. Calling upon Mr. Wise (by Mr. May's recommendation), and also the following houses; I found children could be taken at Mr. Douglas's mills to any extent by writing to Mr. John Isherwood, Holywell Company, Manchester. Mr. Longshaw would also take children, three or four at a time, not more. I will not detain the board further as to the particular applications I made, as I have got the addresses with me, which I can give to your clerk. I have omitted to mention the names of Messrs. Harrison and Adshead, they are great spinners, and no doubt, if written to, they would take some families, provided they were respectable. The opinion I have formed, after having communicated with many great manufacturers upon the subject, is as follows; that families must be selected with great attention, both as to fitness and respectability; next, that never more than two families should be removed at the same time.

It seems that, owing to a Commissioner having been appointed by the Board in London, great care is requisite not to excite the working unions. The Irish at present are very numerous in every great town, so that no opposition can be made to their numbers being increased, they having the brute force; and no doubt they would willingly join the inhabitants of Lancashire to stop any system of migration that might be adopted from the south, as it is well known that all manufacturers greatly prefer the English to the Irish; but hitherto, owing to the bad administration of the poor laws, it is an ascertained fact that no hands have migrated from this side of Derby to the northern manufacturies. Should any intimidation be made use of against the labourers from this country, there is no doubt that migration would be stopped for years, and the Irish would keep possession of the market: I therefore must again repeat that I think great benefit may arise from the system, but extreme caution must be used. All the manufacturers are ready to employ their own countrymen, but everywhere great care was urged as to the mode of removing the hands. Any assistance that I can render your board I shall have much pleasure in giving; and I think if a list were obtained by every guardian from his respective parish, saying what families and children are willing to migrate; I will go with your relieving-officer and see them, and give my opinion as to their fitness. Applications may be then made to the parties I have named, stating the number and age of the families. Houses will be provided, and care will be used by the master upon the first introduction into the . These seem to be the leading features of the case, and I trust that benefit may arise to this part of the country, as well as to the north.

I am, &c.
John Langston.

Cranfield, 17 October 1835.

Westhampnett Union.

A very intelligent labourer, named Thomas Windebank, from the Westhampnett Union, Sussex, of which the Duke of Richmond is chairman, visited the district, for the purpose of personally ascertaining the truth of the representations he had received respecting the demand for labour.

In a communication with which I was subsequently favoured from the Duke of Richmond, he states,

"Thomas Windebank, of Felpham, returned home quite satisfied that the labourers in this county could not do better than proceed to the manufacturing districts."

I obtained Windebank and his family an engagement during his visit, and he and his children have since arrived, and gone to their situations.

R. M. M.

Deputations.

Some Unions, with a view of satisfying their unemployed labourers that the reports respecting the facility of obtaining employment in the manufacturing districts were well founded, have deputed one or two of this class to visit the districts, and make their own observations; concluding that their report would probably be favourable, and have greater influence upon the minds of their fellow labourers, than those emanating from any other quarter.

I have reason to believe that some of the persons thus deputed have not visited the north of England at all, but expended the money entrusted to them so to do either in London or elsewhere. But two of these labourer deputations ever called upon me, although I have little doubt they were all directed to do so. With one exception (that of the Westhampnett Union, Sussex), they have all upon their return stated that no work whatever was to be obtained, and that all the migrants who have come down were starving, endeavouring, by the grossest misrepresentations, to make out that there was no use in their leaving home, and, therefore, that relief should be continued to them in idleness.

One of these deputations, a labourer from the Hailsham Union, Sussex, did call upon me, and before he had been with me half an hour I introduced him to a highly respectable silk manufacturer at Congleton, who offered to employ him and his family for three years certain, at 1*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* per week wages for the first year, and a proportionate increase for the second and third. He affected to receive and to accept the offer with great thankfulness, stating that he wished to return to his Union and bring down his family, and to inform his neighbours

neighbours how very satisfactory all his inquiries had been. The contract for his employment was signed by the master, and given to the man, at his request, to carry with him, as he said, to convince the guardians of the advantageous terms he had made.

As I had heard of the misrepresentations such deputations had made, I wrote to Mr Hawley, the Assistant Commissioner then in Sussex, acquainting him with the result of this man's visit to the north.

The following extract of a letter from Mr. Hawley to the Board will show the advantages that resulted from my so doing:

"Monday last I attended the Hailsham board. It was lucky I attended, for the man who had been sent to Manchester with a letter to Mr. Muggeridge to collect information, and report to his fellow paupers, had returned, and came before the board by order of the guardians. He made his appearance before I entered the room, and had given the board a statement replete with the grossest falsehoods; informing them that if he took his family up, the utmost he could earn (and that with the greatest exertion of his children and himself) would be 12*s.* per week; that even work upon these terms was to be obtained with the greatest difficulty; and that all the labourers he had conversed with, who had gone up from the rural districts, were suffering the greatest privations, and eager to get back home again.

"The guardians had just dismissed him, with a perfect conviction that they had been completely misled by the representations which I had made to them on this subject; and had addressed a letter to me, with an account of this man's mission; when I came in and produced a letter which I had that morning received from Mr. Muggeridge, informing me that Page had had the opportunity of inspecting every department that was likely to afford him useful information, and had expressed himself as being satisfied, from what he had seen, that there was ample work, at enormous wages, for any number of hands who might be inclined to migrate, and that he had brought back with him a written offer for permanent employment at 1*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* per week.

"I immediately had the fellow into the room and made him recant all his falsehoods, one by one, to the great satisfaction of the guardians.

"What could be his motive I cannot imagine; but had I not luckily been there, his false report would have done infinite mischief."

Under these circumstances, I should strongly advise that in all cases where labourers may be sent as a deputation, they be accompanied by a guardian, or some other responsible and credible person.

R. M. M.

Messrs. *James Hutchinson & Son*, of *Bury*, in a communication, dated 2 July 1836, say "We have had conversation with many gentlemen who have taken into their employment labourers' families from the agriculturul districts, and who have uniformly expressed their approbation of their general conduct, and the facility with which they learned their business."

Anthony Strutt, esq., of the firm of Messrs. *W. G.* & *J. Strutt*, of *Belper* and *Milford*, who has given employment to many families, says, in writing of them, June 27th, "As far as I can judge, I should say that they are likely to suit our purpose well, and will have regular and permanent employment here if they conduct themselves properly. The children are generally quick, intelligent and well-behaved, &c."

Messrs. *Stevenson & Lambert*, of *Preston*, write, "We are perfectly satisfied with the families we have had; and they express themselves satisfied with their employment."

Mr. *James Aitkin*, of *Bacup*, "I have no cause whatever to complain; and I have not had, either in the mill, or out of it, one who has had a moment's illness."

Messrs. *Lees & Son*, of Gorton: "Our families are in good health, and answer better than we anticipated."

Mr. *Thomas Ashton*, of *Hyde*: "My families are all in good health, and doing well."

Messrs. *Saxon*, Brothers, of *Pitcombe*, who had several orphan and other children from Suffolk: "We are happy to say that all the children have conducted themselves in a highly respectable way since they have been in our employ; and we are well satisfied with them."

Mr. *Henry Hogg*, of *Congleton, Cheshire*: "They are very orderly and well-behaved people."

Mr. *Hutchinson*, of *Bury*: "The father is my coachman. He is a quiet, steady and industrious man. All the children conduct themselves well, and are industrious, and are perfectly contented with their situations."

Mr. *James Clegg*, of *Heywood*: "I am perfectly satisfied with the families, every individual of which is actually engaged at the different processes of work in the mill; except Samuel Halls, who is in the smithy; George Taylor, who is carting coal for me, and his second son, whom I have agreed to let go to service in a farm, making 27 persons in work. I do not find any more difficulty in teaching them than other individuals not before connected with factory labour."

Messrs. *Charles Ainsworth & Co.*, of *Bolton*: "Our families are all doing well, and in good health."

Mr. *Peter Bould, Ovenden House, Halifax*: "Our families are in good health, and give satisfaction."

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R. M. Muggeridge,
Esq.

PUBLIC WORKS for which Acts of Parliament have been obtained, in the North of *England*. 1836.

		Proposed Capital.
Birmingham, Derby and Stonebridge Railway	£.	530,000
Gateshead and Durham		660,000
Bolton and Leigh		3,400
Hull and Selby		485,000
Leeds and Derby, North Midland		1,500,000
Manchester and Leeds		1,300,000
Midland Counties		1,200,000
Newcastle and North Shields		120,000
Preston and Longridge		30,000
Sheffield and Rotherham		90,000
York and North Midland		370,000
	£.	6,288,400

FORM OF MIGRATION RETURN.

Name of Family or Families in my Employ received through the Agency of the Poor Law Commissioners.	Number of Persons comprised in the Family.	Number engaged in Factory Labour.	Number of Deaths in each Family since their entering my Employ.	Number of Deaths among those actually engaged in Factory Labour.	Alleged Cause of Deaths.

Remarks.—

[*Signature of Firm.*]
[*Date and Place of Abode.*]

Port of Liverpool.—A RETURN of the Number of DECK PASSENGERS arrived from and returned to *Ireland* via *Liverpool*, 1835.

DATE and YEAR, 1834 and 1835.	By what Company conveyed to Liverpool.	From what Ports of Ireland.	Number of Persons arrived in Liverpool.	To what part of Ireland returned from Liverpool.	Number of Persons returned to Ireland.	Total Excess into Liverpool.	Grand Total arrived from Ireland into Liverpool, and returned to Ireland.
1835:							
1 Feb. to 1 Nov.	The Dublin Company.	Dublin and Belfast.	47,816	Dublin and Belfast.	35,502		
– to –	Sent back by the parish of Liverpool.	- - -	- -	- - -	1,187		
1834:							
1 Nov. to – 1835	Messrs. Longstray & Co.	Belfast -	4,031	Belfast -	2,920		
1835:							
1 Jan. to – –	St. George's Company.	Cork - -	1,493	Cork -	538		
– to – –	- - Ditto -	Newry -	1,729	Newry -	1,283		
– to – –	- - Ditto -	Dunkald -	1,392	Dunkald -	1,606		
– to – –	Londonderry Company.	Londonderry	2,400	Londonderry	1,600		
– to – –	St. Patrick's Company.	Waterford -	1,055	Waterford -	402		
– to – –	Messrs. Purdon & Co.	Dublin -	5,200	Dublin -	2,600		
– to – –	Messrs. Probert & Co.	Newry -	2,700	Newry -	2,025		
– to 30 Sept. –	Drogheda Company.	Drogheda -	3,073	Drogheda -	3,000		
		Total - -	70,889	- - -	52,663	18,226	123,552

Port of Bristol.—AN ACCOUNT of the Number of DECK PASSENGERS which have arrived from and returned to *Ireland* via *Bristol*, from the 31 December 1834 to 31 December 1835.

DATE and YEAR, 1834 and 1835.	By what Company conveyed to Bristol.	From what Ports in Ireland.	Number of Persons arrived in Bristol.	To what Ports of Ireland returned from Bristol.	Number of Persons returned to Ireland.	Total Excess into Ireland.	Grand Total arrived from Ireland into Bristol, and returned to Ireland.
From 31 Dec. 1834 to 31 Dec. 1835.	The Bristol General Steam Navigation Comp^y.	Cork -	3,550	Cork -	4,417	867	7,967
Ditto - -	- - Ditto -	Waterford -	1,504	Waterford -	1,631	127	3,135
Ditto - -	- - Ditto -	Dublin -	1,582	Dublin -	1,710	128	3,292
		Total - -	6,636	- - -	7,758	1,122	14,394

Extracts from a Letter of the Rev. *William Metcalfe*, a Magistrate, (published in the *Cambridge Chronicle* of 25 December 1835), on the abundance of Work, &c.

To the Editor of the *Cambridge Chronicle.*

Sir,

AT the present moment the neighbourhood of Manchester alone offers full employment for an additional 20,000 families, at great wages. The following cases of persons recently removed from Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire will illustrate the subject:

William Wootton, a shepherd at Risborough, Bucks, was there receiving 10*s.* a week, he removed with his wife and five children to the cotton mills of Messrs. Bayley, in the vicinity of Manchester, and was instantly employed; himself at 14*s.* per week, his daughter Eliza, aged 16, at 7*s.* 6*d.*, John, at 7*s.*, and Sarah, at 3*s.* 6*d.*, making a total of 32*s.* per week, instead of 10*s.* James Hickman removed his family (with Wootton) from Risborough, where they were only earning 8*s.* weekly; he now earns, himself 14*s.*, and his two sons, James and Richard, 3*s.* 6*d.* each, making 21*s.* weekly. William Bayley, from Risborough, there earned 7*s.*, and his family (consisting of eight children) 9*s.*, in all, 16*s.* weekly; they are now in a cotton mill at Stayley Bridge, earning 42*s.* per week. Bailey received those earnings the moment he entered into Mr. Harrison's employment. Rent and firing cost him in Risborough 3*s.* 6*d.* weekly, he now pays 3*s.* 8*d.*

The cases from Bedfordshire exhibit the same cheering details; I have many before me, but shall mention only one; Philip Peddor went from Cranfield, near Bedford, with his wife and five children, to Mr. Clayton's mill at Mellor, in Derbyshire; the whole earnings of himself and family at Cranfield, amounted weekly to 15*s.* 4*d.*, and his rent was 3*l.* per annum; he now receives 30*s.* weekly, and his rent is 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum; but he says clothing and fuel are much cheaper than in Bedfordshire, and he had rather cross the sea than return thither.

I will give you two or three cases which apply to the unmarried men; I take them from Mr. Kersey's interesting letter to Archdeacon Lyall. In October last, Thomas Rand, a labourer, went with Mr. Kersey from Hadleigh, to the manufacturing districts, to ascertain the truth of the reports, "that good and constant employment, and high wages might be obtained by any able-bodied men and boys, who were willing to work, if they would but go to the railroads and manufactory counties." Within a week of leaving his home, Rand found the reports to be true to the very letter, and actually contracted with the superintendent of the Great Western Railway, for himself and three sons, at the following wages; himself 27*s.* a week, two sons, aged 19 and 17, each 14*s.* per week, and the other son, aged 13, 6*s.* per week; in all 51*s.* weekly. Several single men are receiving 17*s.* and 18*s.* a week, out of which they pay 2*s.* weekly for washing and lodging. It appears by the report of Dr. Kay, of Manchester, that the machinery recently erected, and now erecting in that neighbourhood, but not supplied with hands, will be equal to 7,507 horses power. Every single horse power requires at least six "mill hands" or workmen, who give further employment to six more workpeople, so that a population of 90,084 additional hands will be required to supply this new machinery. I mention this to show that the present demand for working hands is not of a temporary nature. This indeed is exhibited by the conduct of the manufacturers, who are unwilling to contract with an agricultural family for a shorter period than three years. They find them comfortable cottages at a reasonable rent, and bind themselves to give a certain advance of wages in each successive year. And without such contracts they could not afford to pay such great wages as they do to persons upon their first entrance on a business which they have to learn. Abounding as Manchester and its vicinity does with work, the agricultural labourers need not to look there only; Derbyshire and Staffordshire offer also employment to an astonishing extent. Mr. Kersey tells us he was told by Mr. Joseph Hall, of Burslem, in Staffordshire, that he could find employment for all the

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surplus poor in the neighbourhood of Hadleigh; the labourers at 15*s.* per week, children from six years old and upwards, 2*s.* 6*d.* each, and boys of the age of 14, 7*s.* per week.

Now, surely, with such prospects, no man in our agricultural parishes need be disheartened. If he have a large family solely dependant on him for support, and his wages be utterly inadequate to the task, if he be a single man, unable to obtain employment, the step to be taken is clear; there is abundance of work in the kingdom, he has only to remove from one parish to another, and his wants will be supplied. And really it is difficult to imagine how any reasonable objection can be assigned against any poor family, or single person so removing. Common sense, prudence, self-interest, and parental affection, all unite in saying "do not hesitate about leaving the parish where you now live, and where you can with difficulty obtain a bare subsistence for your children; where the labouring hands are too numerous, or the farmers too poor to give you regular employment; do not hesitate, but resolve instantly to go to some other parish in the country where a numerous family will add to your weekly income, because labour will be found for all; and where the wages will not only supply you with good clothes and abundance of good food, but will leave a surplus weekly, to support you in old age, or to advance the interests of your children." I would remind the labourers that such removals are of every-day occurrence in the middle classes of society; and that in all classes above them, the younger branches of a family are dispersed from the parental roof, wheresoever they may best establish themselves by their own industry and exertions. The hardship, therefore (as it is often called), of removing from one's native place, is not confined to the labouring classes. It is, however, absolutely ridiculous to call that a hardship, which removes a family from a place of want and starvation to a situation of plenty and comfort.

If any labouring persons should be induced, by the facts stated in this letter, to resolve upon removing to the manufacturing districts, I would advise them instantly to apply to the clergyman of their parish, or some other gentleman for instruction.

There is now stationed at Manchester a Government agent, R. M. Muggeridge, esq., to whom applications may be made, and whose directions will greatly facilitate the immediate location and success of families seeking employment in that neighbourhood. The great importance of this subject to the welfare of our labouring population strikes me so forcibly, that I cannot help taking the liberty of urging upon the clergy and gentlemen residing in country parishes, the great benefit they might possibly confer upon all their parishioners, by disseminating such facts as I above have referred to, and by explaining to their industrious poor the great advantages they may instantly obtain by removing to the manufacturing districts.

I am, &c.

Foulmire, 21 December 1835. *Wm. Metcalfe.*

Extract from the *Manchester Guardian*.—Immigration of Labourers.

In the month of March last we gave some particulars of the removal into this neighbourhood of several poor families from the parish of Great Bledlow, in Buckinghamshire, where very severe distress had prevailed amongst the agricultural labourers, and of the great improvement in their condition. About a month afterwards, we inserted a letter from the Rev. James Beard, rector of Cranfield, in Bedfordshire, who stated that the labourers in his parish were in great distress from the want of employment and the low rate of wages; and he expressed a wish to make an arrangement with some manufacturer in this neighbourhood for receiving and giving employment to a few families from Cranfield. We have this week had the pleasure of an interview with Mr. Beard, and are glad to find that his benevolent intentions have been to some extent carried into effect, with a success quite equal to that which attended the removals from Great Bledlow. The parties that left Cranfield were 12 married men and their families, who were sent to Mellor, in Derbyshire, and have been for several weeks past employed at Mr. Clayton's factory there. Mr. Beard, being desirous of ascertaining how the change had operated upon his late parishioners, has just paid them a visit, and has had an opportunity of learning from their own lips, and from an inspection of their dwellings, to what extent their condition has been improved. We are happy to be able to state, that in every case the removal has been attended with the most satisfactory results. They all continue in the service of Mr. Clayton; are all (with their families) earning wages to an amount about three times as large as they could have obtained at Cranfield; and are all extremely well satisfied with the change in their condition, as, we believe, their employer is with them. We are glad to learn, too, that they have been treated with great kindness by the people of the neighbourhood in which they have come to reside, who have shown no symptoms of that sort of jealousy of the new comers which designing men have endeavoured to excite in the minds of the working population of this neighbourhood; a result to which the mild and bland manners by which the peasantry of the south of England are distinguished, has no doubt materially contributed. Mr. Beard informs us that the population of his parish is about 1,200, and that amongst these there are a number of other families of most industrious habits and irreproachable character, for whom also he is desirous of obtaining employment in this neighbourhood. They have long been, owing, as he said, to the depression of wages in agricultural employments, in a state of great distress; but they have borne their sufferings with the utmost fortitude and resignation, a circumstance which has greatly stimulated his anxiety to serve them, and which cannot be better illustrated than by the fact, of which he assures us, that not one of his parishioners has been convicted of a criminal offence for the last three years. We look to the wide field for labour which these

these manufacturing districts afford, as a most valuable auxiliary with the new poor laws in improving the condition, and thereby re-elevating the character of the agricultural population of the central and southern counties; and we hope the migration of a considerable body of the labouring classes from thence will have considerable effect in softening the manners and refining the habits and feelings of our own operatives. It will be thought extraordinary that any system-mongers (for we will not attribute the thing to a worse class of persons) should have carried their opposition to the voluntary change of residence, on the part of individuals, with a view of improving their condition, to such a length as to have placarded the agricultural districts with bills representing those labourers who consent to come into this neighbourhood, as being transported to slavery. Such, however, Mr. Beard informs us has been the case, and he showed us a letter from one of Mr. Clayton's men to his friend at home, which adverts to the fact. Speaking of some acquaintances, "Tell them," says the writer to his correspondent, "that we are not transported, and that we are not slaves;" and he added something to the effect, if we recollect aright, that those who would not believe him might stay and be slaves (for they were no better) at home. It gives us pleasure to record the success in this way of another effort to improve the condition of a laborious and deserving class; and we trust that what we have now written may pave the way to further successful experiments of the same kind.

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No. 20.
Report of
R. M. Muggeridge,
Esq.

Form of Application for able-bodied Labourers.

Firm or Person applying.	Trade or Occupation.	Where carried on.	Number of additional Work-people whom the Applicant is willing to take into his Employ.		Description of Work-people required.	If required to be of any particular Age, state what.	Nature of the Labour to be performed.	Terms upon which Labour is offered. *Note.*—Under this head state the Amount of Wages proposed to be given to each description of Labourer, and whether progressive or otherwise.	Whether or no the Employment would be likely to be permanent, or the probable Period of its duration.	Whether or no an Engagement would be made by Contract, for any and what Period.	REMARKS.
			Males.	Females.							
Example : Sam. Hemming	Contractor for general work.	On the London & Birmingham Railway, at Wolston.	50 to 70	- -	Excavators, &c.	Not under 18 years of age.	Filling earth into waggons.	From 2 *s.* 6 *d.* to 3 *s.* 6 *d.* a day, according to capability.	18 months -	From month to month, at — per day.	In immediate want of the hands.

Address.
To
The Poor Law Commissioners,
Somerset House,
London.

Migration,
R. M. Muggeridge, Esq.

Samuel Hemming, [*Signature of Applicant.*]

Wolston, near Coventry, 12 July 1836. [*Date and Place of Abode.*]

— No. 21. —

Appendix (B.)
No. 21.
Report of *Robert Baker*, Esq.

REPORT on Home Migration to the *West Riding* of *Yorkshire*, by *Robert Baker*, Esq., Migration Agent to the Poor Law Commission.

Gentlemen, Leeds, July 25, 1836.

I HAVE the honour to present to you my report on the subject of home migration; first, as to the number of families located in my district in Yorkshire, with the probabilities of the continuance of the system; and secondly, on a few matters of interest connected therewith.

The subjoined table will show you the number of families come, coming, and who have refused to migrate after offers of work have been obtained for them, with their aggregate numbers, the counties from whence they have been removed, and the kind of employment to which they have been put.

	Families.	Comprising Persons.
Total number of families for whom offers of employment have been obtained.	132	1,158
Of whom have arrived at their new location	80	712
On their way down, or for whom negociations are pending	12	102
Total	92	814
Refused to migrate after offers had been made to them.	40	344

Counties from whence migrated.	Families.	Persons.
Norfolk	42	319
Essex	3	28
Cambridge	6	127
Suffolk	23	196
Berks	2	19
Beds	13	92
Wilts	3	33
- - -	92	814

Located in Yorkshire, and employed in cotton, worsted, silk and flax-spinning, agriculture and coal-getting.

When it is remembered that this has been accomplished since December, and that for the first two or three months very few useful lists came to my hands, I trust my report will be satisfactory.

When the condition of the working classes in some of the agricultural counties is considered, and I take that condition from the general tenor of the accompanying letters, and from the migrants themselves, what the burthen of this surplus labour must have been upon the various parishes may be imagined. In the same ratio the relief; for whilst the new mode of administering parochial assistance has compelled the idle and hereditary pauper to migrate, it has induced the industrious but indigent recipients to seek the means of bettering their condition, and, I must do them the justice to say, that they have followed it out with an admirable perseverance of purpose and intent. One thing is certain, that both classes of persons have migrated, both without and with characters; of the former many have returned, I fear to check the exultation which I understand has sometimes been felt on such families removing from their parishes; the latter, passing through the agency of the Poor Law Commission office, have settled into industrious occupation, happy in the opportunity thus afforded them of gaining an honest livelihood. The rate of wages also subjoined, may be taken as a fair sample of what the migrants receive, the first of which will be found in the following copy of a letter from Mr. Johnson, the managing clerk of a very large worsted-weaving concern to which some families were removed from Cambridgeshire.

Sir, Burley Mill, near Leeds, 26 July, 1836.

For your and the Poor Law Commissioners' information, we beg to annex a statement of questions which have been this day put by us to the three families sent here by you, as regards their present condition, compared with that previous to their removal. We beg to add that the respective answers are their own. We are, Sir, your very obedient servants,

T. W. Stansfeld & Co.
E. Johnson.

To Robert Baker, Esq., Leeds.

NAME.	Are you as well situated here as you were previous to your removal?	Do you find Provisions dear or cheap?	Are you comfortable and happy?	Average Amount of Children's Weekly Earnings.	House Rent.	REMARKS.
John Easey -	Had it not been for sickness, we should have been better.	Dear -	We are -	David, 12 - 4/6 Mary, 15 - 5/ Fanny, 19 - 4/9 Betty, 23 - 5/ John, when regularly employed - 14/	3*s.* per week.	The father and five of the children had the small-pox.

(*continued*)

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NAME.	Are you as well situated here as you were previous to your removal?	Do you find Provisions dear or cheap?	Are you comfortable and happy?	Average Amount of Children's Weekly Earnings?	House Rent.	REMARKS.
Chris[r] Lyon -	We are - -	Dear -	We are -	James, 15 - 4/ Mary, 19 - 4/9 Christ[r], when regularly employed - 14/	3 *s.*	
James Gardner	When I have constant employment, we are better situated.	Dear -	We are -	Cha[s], 11 3/ John, 13 2/ Henry, 15 - 3/4 JamesGardner, when employed, 14/	2 *s.* 6 *d.*	

N. B.—The three families have suffered generally, owing to the fathers not having had regular employment. While here their general conduct has been good, and their habits confirmed to industry.

The second is from the wages-book of Messrs. Hindes & Derham, of Leeds, worsted-spinners; and contains, amongst other things, a very striking comparison between the past and present condition of one of the parties in particular; I allude to Facer, concerning whom I immediately refer you to the annexed letter of T. J. Green, esq., guardian of Wootton, from whence he comes.

		£.	*s.*	*d.*		£.	*s.*	*d.*	
Facer and family -	8 weeks - - -	9	–	– ½	- -	1	2	6	per week.
Family only - - -	12 – - - - -	13	13	10 ½	- -	1	2	10	—
Pitts and family - -	9 – - - - -	11	4	4	- -	1	4	11	—
Family only - - -	11 – - - - -	8	0	1	- -	–	14	8	—
Ridgwell's family -	17 – - - - -	31	15	3 ½	- -	1	17	7	—

H. & D.

These families consist of the following persons:

Christopher Facer -	40	Workers; formerly earning, when in work, 12 *s.* weekly; now 2 *l.* 1 *s.*
Wife* - - -	44	
Richard - - -	15	
Thomas - - -	14	
Rebecca - - -	12	
John - - -	11	
Infant.		
William Pitts - -	36	Workers; formerly earning, when in work, 14 *s.* 6 *d.* weekly; now 1 *l.* 4 *s.* 11 *d.* without the father.
Wife* - - -	36	
Thomas - - -	16	
Hannah - - -	14	
George - - -	12	
John - - -	10	
M. A. - - -	7	
Rebecca - - -	2	
Edward Ridgwell -	52	Workers; formerly earning, when in work, including pension, weekly, 16 *s.* 6 *d.*; now 1 *l.* 17 *s.* 7 *d.*, exclusive of pension.
Wife* - - -	41	
William - - -	17	
Mark - - -	16	
John - - -	14	
Henry - - -	13	
Samuel - - -	10	
Richard - - -	9	
Maria - - -	5	
George - - -	3	

* The wives of the migrants do not work in the mills; they are generally engaged at home.

Mr. Baker, Sir, Leeds, July 2, 1836.

I am much obliged to you for getting me and my family into employment, as I am in much better circumstances now than ever I was before, being in a state of starvation when I came down. And I likewise return thanks to Mr. John Green for his kindness to me. We like Leeds, and the people behave well to us. I would not go back to Bedfordshire again if I was sure of work, as I am doing better than I expected in Leeds. The wages I received for myself and the children who were able to work, amounted to about 12 *s.* weekly to support seven children, myself and wife. The wages we now receive amount regularly to 2 *l.* 1 *s.*, and sometimes 10 *s.* more. I should like you to write for William Brightman, of Wootton, as he can live here well, but where he is he cannot.

I remain, &c. *Christian Facer.*

Sir, Bedford, June 20, 1836.

Having been informed by Mr. Greatrex, surgeon of this place, that you were anxious to hear the former condition of Facer and his family, of Wootton, in this county, migrants to your neighbourhood, I hasten to comply with your wish. I should say that nothing could be more wretched than their condition. The man himself was constantly suffering from ague; and from that circumstance and the deficiency of employment in his parish, had not been for years in regular work; seldom could procure any, so that he had been a constant pauper relying on the parish for support. His family, too, for the last winter had been mostly sufferers in a similar way; and, indeed, to view their miserable mud cottage, in a low, damp situation, adjoining a large tract of open field land, with a filthy pond close by the door, this was not to be wondered at. In the halcyon days of poor laws abuses, their condition with parish pay, and a large family, (two only, a boy and a girl, earning anything, and the last, at the outside, a shilling a week), must have been bad enough; but during the last winter it was truly wretched. I visited them frequently, sometimes every week, and found the man very ill with the ague, and two of the children; the wife just confined, without the common necessaries of sustenance or clothing (indeed I was obliged to ask the board for a flannel petticoat for her); the eldest boy unemployed, so that he was obliged to come for a time into the workhouse; and the eldest girl, so severe was their distress, sent to the lace-school to earn her miserable pittance, leaving the mother, just risen from her confinement, to wash and do other domestic affairs, in such a state of weakness that she could scarcely stand; and their whole support in this situation was about 5*s.* a week, allowed by the board, 2*s.* of which went for fuel.

Upon the whole, I think it would have been difficult to find a family in such a hopeless condition. I must say I took great interest in them. The man had seen better days. The children I thought very handy and well disposed. I persuaded them (no easy task in the first instance) to migrate; procured them a situation, and some additional allowances from the board to enable them to avail themselves of it; and often made them presents; and I was afterwards grieved to find that the man behaved so badly, presenting at once a remarkable instance of good fortune, and insensibility to the change and ingratitude to the authors of it.

I am, &c. *J. John Green*,

——— Baker, Esq. Guardian for Wootton, Bedfordshire.

Do me the favour, gentlemen, to look then at Mr. Green's letter, and afterwards at Mr. Derham's statement, and you will at once see how fortunate it has been for Facer that home migration has been adopted. You will find in Mr. Derham's table a difference with regard to Facer and family, and family only, which requires explanation. The wages of the whole family, including the father, were to be 22*s.* 6*d.* per week, and for six months; but after eight weeks, this man, unable to bear his prosperity, threatened to take away his children, and to find them other employment at a higher rate of wages. He was therefore discharged, but the children were retained; and Mr. Derham finding them docile, and to make good progress in learning the business, advanced the children, without the father, to 22*s.* 10*d.*, a weekly sum which they have since continued to enjoy.

I insert a few other letters from migrants, as being interesting and gratifying.

Mr. Glasscock, Sir, Leeds, 2 July 1836.

I take the liberty of writing to you to let you know how we are going on. The people of Leeds and our neighbours behave very well to us, and we are all very much satisfied with the situation we are in. We live much better here than we did at Castle Hedingham, and as cheap, if not cheaper, for meat is not so dear. As for the house in which I live, I can compare it to no house but Mr. Carter's. We are all in good health at present; Leeds seems to agree very well with us. Our wages are, Mr. Ridgwell, 15*s.* per week, and sometimes 1*l.*; William, 7*s.*; Mark, 5*s.* 6*d.*; John, 4*s.*; Henry 3*s.* 6*d.*; and Samuel, 3*s.* 6*d.*; Richard, for three days, 1*s.* 9*d.*; so that you see we are in a much better state than when we left.

Be so kind as to let Mr. Astley see this letter. I remain, &c. *Ed. Ridgwell.*

Sir, Leeds, 26 July 1836.

I have taken the opportunity to write these few lines to inform you of our present situation; we are all of us quite well at this present time, and we can all inform you that we like Leeds much better than Wrestlingworth. James Munsey was working in a factory four weeks, and then left and went to live with a gentleman at Bramley, that is about four miles from Leeds. He came over to see us on Sunday, and he is very fond of his place, and his master likes him very much. I began mowing on Monday, and that is both better work and better pay than what you give in your country. My wages are 4*s.* and four quarts of beer to the acre, and the crops much lighter than what they are in your country. Please to give my love to my father, and the lads' to theirs likewise, and tell them that we are all quite well, and very comfortable, more so than at Wrestlingworth. I shall conclude by feeling myself much obliged to you for your kindness in sending me to Leeds.

I beg, &c. *Thomas Brooker.*

Mr. Baker, Sir, Leeds, 24 July 1836.

I and my family return you our sincere thanks for providing me and my family with work when we came in a state of destitution; so by your kindness we can now live very comfortable. Before I came down from Suffolk I had been out of employment for one year, and had nothing to live upon more than 3*s.* a week, and two stone of flour, for myself, wife and five children. I receive 12*s.* a week, my eldest daughter 6*s.* 6*d.*, who never earned more than 6*d.* or 8*d.* a day, and that very seldom, and Ann, the next in age, 3*s.*, and we all expect our wages to be risen shortly. By the wages we receive now, you will see that our

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situation is very different to what it was before. The parish I came from received my pension of 3*s.* 6*d.* a week; they gave me 3*s.*, and left the 6*d.* for me to receive when the pension was due. I have my pension now, besides the wages. I have told you this to let you know how we were and how we are; as long as I live and can get a bit of bread, I will never go back again. The people of Leeds behave well to us, and our neighbours looked after us as if we belonged to them. I remain, &c. *James Goddard.*

Mr. Baker, Sir, Leeds, 24 July 1836.

I hope you will excuse my writing to you, as I do it to let you know the situation our family is in, and to settle the reports of some idle men who came down and could get plenty of work and good wages, but who were too idle to work, or even to seek for it; they went back and said they had put us in the workhouse, and told a many other stories, which were all lies, to screen themselves. I have to return you many thanks for your kindness to myself and family for getting us employment. I will let you know what we earned when we were in Norfolk, and what we now earn in Leeds, then you will see whether we have bettered ourselves or not. My family and myself never earned more than 10*s.* a week, except for about five weeks in harvest, then we might earn about 1*l.* a week, and that had to keep me and my wife and seven children; and for three months my eldest son, when he was out of work. The wages we receive in Leeds are, my wages are 18*s.*, and sometimes a guinea, a week. My eldest daughter is in a situation, at 6*l.* 10*s.* a year, and the rest of my family bring me in 15*s.* a week. You can judge yourself, Sir, whether our situation is better than it was or not. We all like Leeds very well, and we have received better treatment since we came to Leeds, than we did in our own part of the country, where the people are so poor they are fit to eat one another up alive. I remain, &c. *John Clarke.*

Mr. Goldsmith, Sir, Leeds, 23 July 1836.

I return you many thanks for the character you gave me. I think it my duty to acquaint you with the manner in which we live; we like Leeds very much, and the people behave very well to us. We are much better off than ever we were before we came here, as we can afford to get plenty to eat and drink, and have a good house to cover us. I get 6*s.* a week; Eliza, 7*l.* 10*s.* a year, meat and lodgings; Mary, 5*s.* a week; George, 4*s.*; John, 3*s.* 6*d.* Harriet, 1*s.* 9*d.*; and the little boy is taken to the Mill School without any charge, and we all expect our wages to be risen soon. Leeds agrees with us very well.

I remain, &c. *Ellen Plummer.*

Too much cannot be said in favour of the conduct of the guardians of several Unions, who have privately assisted many of these wretched families to migrate with small loans, oftener gifts; but this praise is far from being general, as I regret to state that many overseers and guardians, alive only to the removal of these persons from their own parishes, have placed them here in the most destitute condition, without a shilling at their disposal, or an article of furniture wherewith to recommence life amongst strangers, without credit or friends.

It would be difficult to say what the mill-owners would have done without migration; for in many of the Yorkshire districts the home population has been far too small for the demand which has been made upon it. The restrictive clauses of the Factories Regulation Act, changing the hours of working from 16 to 12, reduced the production in the same ratio, and became one material cause of the demand for labour which has since ensued. When the limitation of age to work 12 hours was 11 years, this over-demand was not sensibly felt; when it came to 12 years, hands became scarce; now that it is at 13 years, that scarcity is very considerably increased, and not only for this reason, but because for the first year the mill-owners increased their machinery by a few frames at a time; now they are building new mills. On these accounts migration has been and still is necessary to Bradford, Halifax, Sowerby Bridge, and the neighbourhoods in some of the clothing districts also, and in many other small villages, where the population is scanty, and where this increase of machinery has taken place.

But in order to show this more fully, I exhibit the following table of the conjoined populations of Sowerby Bridge and Warley, in the parish of Halifax, and of Batley and Gomersall, near Dewsbury.

SOWERBY and WARLEY.

	Conjoined Population.	Number of Mills.	Horse Power.
In 1821 -	11,872	- - 3	46
1831 -	12,588	- - 11	276
1836 -	- - -	- - 13	335

	BATLEY and GOMERSALL.		
In 1821 -	9,669	Up to 1826 - 10	324
1831 -	11,030	Up to 1836 - 16	566
Now building	- - -	- - 6	200

So

So that the Commissioners will at once see the extraordinary situation in which these mill-owners will be placed, unless migration relieves them; and this is by no means a solitary instance of the state of the demand for and supply of labour in the Yorkshire districts.

In Bradford, one spinner alone has had during much of the past year 1,000 *l.* worth of machinery standing for want of hands, and through the county this has been a good deal the case, more or less.

The reason why migration has not taken place into these neighbourhoods to a greater extent has been the want of cottages; but now cottages are being built, and the orders for families are very numerous, quite as numerous as the office can supply; for the mill-owners having been deceived by some families of bad character, voluntary migrants amongst them, will now have none which are not transmitted in the regular way. To one gentleman alone I am requested to send a family a month for 14 months; to another, six families; to a third, three; whilst in one or two other places, the mill-owners only wait the erection of a number of cottages, to inhabit them all. Another check upon migration has been the uncertainty of employment for the male head of each family, who, if the family is worth anything at all, is himself too old to begin a new occupation, and would therefore have to be partially dependent upon casual employment, if a stipulation was not made with the mill-owner that a certain allowance of wages should be given to the father until able to better himself, to prevent him being dependent upon his children for support.

The kind of migrants most required has hitherto been those families containing a great number of girls; of late this has not been of so much importance.

After the testimony given by the letters previously introduced, I have little to say respecting the reception of the migrants by the indigenous population. In no case has there been any jealous feeling expressed, but, on the contrary, a hearty good-will exercised towards those their more unfortunate brethren, and a wish to render them as comfortable as possible. On one occasion, on the arrival of two or three large families into the neighbourhood of Halifax, in a very destitute condition, their new neighbours brought them, one a kettle, another beer, a third bread, &c., sympathising with their distress, and relieving their immediate necessities; and on another, where 35 persons, all relations, were removed to a small village near Leeds, the migrants have been taken under the protection of an intelligent gentleman, who seems to devote all his leisure to the moral welfare of the villagers, have by him been broken off from idle habits and Sabbath desecration, have been initiated into the Sunday school, and to the week-day practice of education after labour is over, and have been persuaded to enter into a benefit society, of which he himself is an honorary member. It is most gratifying to hear this gentleman speak of the readiness with which the new comers fell into the discipline which has so long been practised under his special superintendence, and of the order and decorum which has arisen amongst them upon a very different exhibition of migrant propensities. The name of this gentleman is Mr. H. Skelton, of Thorner, near Leeds.

It should be especially borne in mind that migration has nowhere been forced upon an already sufficient indigenous population; nowhere made use of to depreciate the price of labour, nor to relieve private differences between master and servant. Where it has taken place it has been asked for, not to throw the inhabitants of a district out of bread, nor even to diminish their comforts, but, in fact, to add to them, by enabling capital to accumulate and extend itself, and by its collateral effects to benefit all parties.

I consider it very essential that this fact should be fully known; for the contrary opinion is an error into which well-disposed persons may very readily fall, and has been a handle for ill-disposed individuals to lay hold of for base and malevolent purposes.

Migration, in fact, has been very cautiously introduced, due regard having been had to locality in every case; lest, under any reverse of that prosperity which now prevails in the manufacturing counties, an unequal burthen should lie anywhere than where it ought.

The objections which have been urged against the system are three:

1st. By the poor, from misstatements which have been made by idle returners or persons incapacitated from working by bodily infirmities, and who have been therefore obliged to return, having been sent by their parishes on the fallacious reasoning of out of sight, out of mind.

2dly. By parishes, on account of the expense.

3dly. By benevolent minded people, supposing that no provision is made for the parents, and therefore that the children are compelled to maintain them.

To the first of these objections it may be replied, that many of those who have come over as volunteers without families, and therefore without any extraordinary stimulus for exertion, or who have had a small allowance given them to enable them to seek work, have returned without finding money to their hands, or work without an endeavour to obtain it. Such have reported difficulties which have no existence, to screen themselves from their improper expenditure of their allowance in a mere trip of pleasure, rather than a desire to locate permanently; Clarke's letter gives a specimen of this false representation, and, together with the others, sufficiently refutes the calumnies which have been propagated.

To the second objection is urged, the mere matter of pecuniary calculation, in the difference between a present expense and a probability of what that expense may be increased to, where large families are first indigent from necessity, and afterwards idle from habit, for successive generations.

To the third objection I would state, that in all cases some allowance is agreed upon for the father of every family migrating, never less than 10 *s.* a week, oftener from 12 *s.* to 14 *s.*, being even more than the aggregate wages of a whole family in their own county, upon which they have to depend for their subsistence until, by inquiry for other occupation, or on

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proof of his value to the master he works with, these wages are increased; so that in no case has a family had to keep the parent in the first instance. Those only who have been accustomed to continued poverty, and are at once suddenly removed to comparative affluence, can estimate the effects produced by home migration upon the parties concerned. The unfortunate but honest pauper living in a crazy dwelling, surrounded by swamps, and subjected to all the diseases which extreme poverty admits into the constitution, becomes subdued in time, and sinks into all the degradation of his unhappy condition. By no chance relieved from his deplorable state, he becomes at last a pauper by profession, and his family for generations are inscribed on the parish books, a lasting curse to the soil on which they tread; but removed in time to where he can apply his industry to its proper purpose, his energies are roused to active exertion, and his intellectual, moral and physical condition become entirely changed. On the whole, therefore, the retrospect will bear investigation, and the future presents a wide field for the exercise of a system, at once humane and admirable, affording to our native labourers an opportunity of useful employment without the necessity of self-expatriation.

I have, &c.
Robert Baker.

To the Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

— No. 22. —

REPORT on Emigration to the *British Colonies* of *North America*, by *J. D. Pinnock*, Esq., Government Agent-General for Emigration.—[With a Supplement.]

No. 22.
Report of
J. D. Pinnock, Esq.

Gentlemen, London, 12 July 1836.

The season for emigration to the British colonies of North America having terminated, I beg, in accordance with your directions, to transmit to you the accompanying statement, showing the number of persons for whom I have engaged passages, the parishes to which they belong, and the sums expended by me in furtherance of that object. From this statement you will perceive that 847 persons have been provided by me with conveyance, at a cost of 4,634*l.* 13*s.*; that I have been the medium of engaging four vessels for the conveyance of 1,029 emigrants, independent of the 847 before alluded to; and that I have inspected several vessels, and sanctioned various contracts on the same subject, which have been made by parishes themselves.

I have as yet received intelligence of the arrival of but one vessel, the Caroline, which conveyed a party of emigrants to Quebec, from the parish of Saltwood in Kent; but that intelligence is of so gratifying a nature, not only as regards those emigrants, but as showing the flattering prospects of success which are held out to all who may subsequently arrive in Canada, that I do not think I can adopt a more satisfactory course than to inclose a copy of that letter, (written by Mr. A. C. Buchanan, the government chief superintendent of emigration to Upper and Lower Canada,) for your information.

26 May 1836.

You will observe that Mr. Buchanan states, that "the demand for agricultural labourers and tradesmen, in all parts of those provinces, is very great, and that the country was never in a better condition for the reception of a large body of industrious emigrants, than at the present moment; and that those who are anxious and willing to work, need not be a day unemployed after their arrival."

Under such circumstances, it may be safely asserted that emigration holds out the strongest inducement to those who are unable to obtain employment in this country, to better their condition by seeking it in another hemisphere.

But although the emigration of persons of the working class to Canada has been very large, I regret to observe that to the Australian colonies it has been quite the reverse.

Notwithstanding the great demand which there exists for labour, the high remuneration which is afforded for it, and the superiority of the climate over that of America, I have found the greatest difficulty in persuading parochial authorities to direct their attention to that quarter.

I can attribute this apathy only to the difference of expense between the conveyance to those colonies and America.

As, however, I am now enabled to send out a man and his wife for the small charge of 10*l.*, the remainder being defrayed by the Government, I am desirous of bringing this subject under the consideration of your Board; trusting that you will take such steps as may appear to you most advisable for assisting me in directing to those colonies a large body of young married mechanics and agricultural labourers, who, if they are industrious, cannot fail to better their condition most materially.

I have, &c.
J. D. Pinnock.

The Poor Law Commissioners,
&c. &c. &c.

Supplement to Mr. Pinnock's Report.

A RETURN of Parishes who have availed themselves of the Services of the Government Agent General for Emigration in sending their Pauper Emigrants to the *British Colonies* during 1836.

PARISH.	Number of Adults.	Number of Children.	Port of Embarkation.	Place to which they are to be conveyed.	Price of Passage. £. s. d.	Money to be Paid to the Emigrants on Landing in the Colony. £. s. d.
Bledlow	7	6	London	Toronto	80 – –	7 – –
Monk Sherbourne	23	18	Portsmouth	Quebec	168 – –	56 – –
Hurstbourne Priors	16	20	Ditto	Ditto	136 10 –	51 – –
St. Mary Bourne	10	4	Ditto	Ditto	63 – –	24 – –
Longparish	16	12	Ditto	Ditto	115 10 –	20 10 –
Downton	124	90				
Standlynch	8	11	Ditto	Ditto	1,480 10 –	370 2 6
Whiteparish	20	18				
Saltwood	5	5	London	Baltimore	31 16 –	—
Hockering	10	9	Ditto	Quebec	76 2 6	29 17 6
Trant	18	25	Ditto	Ditto	160 2 6	—
Chaily	6	7	Ditto	Ditto	49 17 6	—
St. Lawrence, Thanet	2	4	Ditto	Ditto	21 – –	5 – –
Bramley	6	12	Ditto	Ditto	63 – –	12 – –
Pamber	7	6	Ditto	Ditto	52 10 –	17 10 –
Chailey	2	4	Ditto	Ditto	21 – –	—
Cople	1	–	Ditto	Ditto	5 5 –	—
Norwich	2	4	Ditto	New York	27 7 –	—
Buckden	10	–	Ditto	Toronto	80 – –	—
Thelnetham	14	7	Ditto	Quebec	91 17 6	—
Walsham	4	11	Ditto	Ditto	49 17 6	—
Ashwell	9	–	Ditto	Ditto	47 5 –	—
Carbrooke	57	–	Ditto	Ditto	299 5 –	—
Rushall	4	5	Ditto	Ditto	34 2 6	—
Wonston						
Mitcheldever	39	–	Portsmouth	Ditto	204 15 –	—
Stoke Charity						
Framlingham	4	6	London	Ditto	36 15 –	—
Breamore	–	–	–	–	–	28 – –
Burnham Thorpe	–	–	–	–	–	37 10 –
South Pickenham	–	–	–	–	–	23 15 –
Childrey and Kingston	18	20	Ditto	Ditto	147 – –	—
Pevensey	2	1	Ditto	Toronto	20 – –	—
Blo' Norton	9	10	Ditto	Quebec	73 10 –	—
Egerton	12	12	Ditto	Ditto	94 10 –	—
Bedford	2	2	Ditto	Ditto	15 15 –	2 – –
Royston	6	9	Ditto	Ditto	55 2 6	—
Wherwell	14	11	Portsmouth	Ditto	102 7 6	—
Clatford	4	–	Ditto	Ditto	21 – –	—
Bramshaw	2	4	London	Ditto	20 10 –	—
Alton	1	–	Ditto	Ditto	5 5 –	—
	494	353			3,950 8 –	684 5 –

	£. s. d.
Money expended on passages	3,950 8 –
Transmitted to the colony for the use of emigrants on landing	684 5 –
Total Expenditure in 1836 £.	4,634 13 –

Number of adult emigrants	494
Number of children under 14	353
Number of Pauper Emigrants provided with Passages by J. D. Pinnock during 1836 to the Colonies	847

In addition to the foregoing return, showing the actual amount of funds which has passed through my hands, I have effected contracts with the owners of the following ships for the conveyance

Appendix (B.)

No. 22.
Report of
J. D. Pinnock, Esq.

conveyance of emigrants to the American Colonies, the cost of which was defrayed directly by the respective parishes to which the emigrants belonged.

The "Eliza" conveyed - - - - - -	219
"Indemnity" - - - - - - -	200
"Brunswick" - - - - - - -	435
"Hampshire" - - - - - - -	180
	1,029

And I have also inspected various vessels, and sanctioned various contracts which have been entered into by parishes themselves with the respective owners or agents of such vessels.

J. D. Pinnock,
London, 12 July 1836. Government Agent General for Emigration.

Office of His Majesty's Chief Agent for the Superintendence of Emigrants to Upper and Lower Canada.

Sir, Quebec, 26 May 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your favour of the 26th March, to hand a few days since, as also yours of 28th, per ship Procus, Captain Arnold, who I am happy to inform you has arrived safe, and passengers all well; they all speak highly of Captain Arnold's kindness and attention to them on their voyage. The draft for 28*l.* sterling I disposed of to Messrs. Forsyth, Walkers & Co. for 7 ½ premium, and, agreeable to your instructions, paid one-half of the respective amounts due each individual here; and as they all decided on settling in the eastern townships, I remitted the balance of their money to Mr. Webster, Sub-Commissioner of the British American Land Company, with directions as to its distribution. I also furnished them with letters to the different agents on their route and recommendations for employment; and they are all in good spirits on their future prospects.

The demand for agricultural labourers and tradesmen in all parts of the country is very great, and I think the country was never in a better condition for the reception of a large body of industrious emigrants than at the present moment; and those who are anxious and willing to work need not be a day unemployed after their arrival here. The British American Land Company are in want of several hundred labourers and carpenters, as they are making considerable improvements on their lands, and opening new roads, so that the industrious emigrant can obtain employment and good wages immediately on his arrival. Domestic servants, both male and female, are very much wanted, both this city and Montreal, with very high wages. I have also had several communications from bye-towns and different parts of Upper Canada, complaining of the want of farm servants.

The other vessels you allude to shall meet with every attention and despatch on their arrival here, and it will afford me much pleasure in attending to any instructions you may be pleased to send with them.

I have, &c.

J. D. Pinnock, Esq., Government Agent General for Emigration, London.

A. C. Buchanan, jun.,
Acting Agent.

Appendix (C.)

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CENTRAL BOARD.

— No. 1 *a.* —

REPORT on the Metropolitan Houses for the Reception of Pauper Children, by *Neil Arnott*, Esq., M. D.

Appendix (C.)
No. 1 *a.*
Report of *Neil Arnott*, Esq. M.D.

Gentlemen,

In obedience to the commission with which you have honoured me, of examining such of the establishments for the reception of pauper children near the metropolis, as would enable me to report to you on any regulations which may be advantageously adopted for the preservation of the health of the inmates and their general medical treatment, I proceeded on the 26th of March to examine the establishment to which the attention of the board was, in the first instance, directed; namely, that of Mr. Aubin, at Norwood, which has contained for the last two years, about 650 children, and in which the mortality has been at the rate of very nearly five per cent. per annum, or one child in 20; and my observations and conclusions I here report. The subject has appeared to me of such importance, and some of the principles involved to be so little understood by parties requiring to act on them, that I have entered into greater detail than I at first thought would be necessary, induced chiefly by the hope that, through the agency of your Board, the attention of all persons within the wide sphere of its influence, who are interested in the subject, may be duly drawn to it. A few of the paragraphs may at first be deemed to have but a remote bearing on the subject, but as conveying the fundamental truths relating to it, they appeared to me requisite to give a just view of it to some minds, which may here first contemplate it as a whole.

That human beings of sound constitution, and not assailed by poisons or violence, may have life and health to the full period of human existence, only four things farther are required, viz., fit air, warmth, aliment, and exercise of body and mind.

With respect to these four, a certain latitude on each side of a best standard, or middle line, is not only compatible with health, but useful, while greater deviations cause temporary disturbance or disease, and greater still cause the disease to end in death; and all the diseases and premature deaths among men, except the consequences of poisons and violence, are caused by errors committed with respect to these requisites, affecting persons either directly or through progenitors.

In some situations, as in certain tropical islands, all these requisites constantly exist, so perfectly suiting man's constitution, that even if he had not understanding superior to that of brutes he might still certainly obtain them. And if he were secure from war and other violence, and from poisons, among which are to be classed the exhalations, or miasmata, from marshy situations, and six or eight kinds which spread contagiously, viz., small-pox, measles, hooping-cough, scarlet-fever, &c., and if he were to use the four requisites only in fit manner or proportions, he would always attain a healthy old age.

But in most countries, to produce or secure the requisites, science and art are needed vastly greater than yet generally possessed; for instead of all men born reaching the age of 80 years or more, as a sound constitution allows, the average of human life, even in the most civilized countries, does not at present much exceed 40 years. In England, for instance, with respect to the requisite of warmth, it is because common knowledge and practice fail in maintaining around persons the degree of it which is suitable, that we witness regularly the host of what are called our winter diseases, the coughs, inflammations, consumptions, rheumatisms, fevers, &c. &c., which sweep off such a number of persons of all ages; and with respect to the requisite of air, the changing supply of which is called ventilation, we may adduce the fact, that not long ago the people working in cotton and other factories, were observed generally soon to become pallid and sickly, and then scrofulous in various degrees, and many of them at last to sink into early graves; and this happened chiefly because they and their employers were ignorant of the fatal influence on their health of spending so much of their time in close apartments, of which the ventilation was either left to chance, or was even studiously prevented to preserve the warmth useful for the process of manufacturing. These workpeople were crowded together, constantly breathing a polluted noxious air, nearly as noxious to them as to the trouts of a mountain stream is the water of a stagnant pool. Recently, however, wheels or fanners for ventilating have been introduced into many of the factories, by which the air is drawn out or changed with any desired rapidity, while fresh air, artificially warmed, is admitted in its stead; and now, in places where these means have been adopted, the factory operatives being further supplied with good food, and not overworked, have become, as proved by late evidence, a most healthy portion of the working community.

Appendix (C.)

No. 1 *a.* Report of *Neil Arnott*, Esq. M.D.

At Mr. Aubin's establishment at Norwood, for the reception and education of pauper children from the London parishes, and containing usually about 650, which establishment, by your direction, I visited professionally on the 26th of March, I found another exemplification of failure to a certain degree in the supply of the four things requisite to secure health among the inmates. The defect was not, however, in the supply of that one of the four which is costly, namely, the aliment, for this, as shown to me, and as seen and reported upon at various times recently by many competent judges, was excellent and abundant, but in the management of the two invisible agents, air and heat; and it evidently arose, not from carelessness or other fault of Mr. Aubin, who had made various attempts, under the recommendation of persons deemed competent to advise, to meet the difficulty, and was still anxious to incur any expense which would secure the objects, but chiefly from the accident of his establishment, through its good repute (probably owing to his fitness for such an undertaking), having become unusually crowded; while about London, architects, builders, and even medical men, have not yet had their attention sufficiently directed to the subjects of warming and ventilating, under such circumstances, to be able to direct him unerringly.

On my way to Norwood I had visited a smaller establishment, but of quite similar character, Mrs. Dronet's, on Brixton Hill, containing about 150 children, where, without other important difference, as compared with Mr. Aubin's, than that there was in proportion much more space for the number of children (a considerable number of beds were without occupants), and consequently purer air, I found the children remarkably healthy, fresh-coloured, strong and plump; I saw only three ailing among them, and no one seriously ill; and it was stated to me that only three had died in the establishment during the last three years, giving a rate of mortality of less than one per cent. per annum. This very low rate (supposing the statement correct) may have been partly owing to selection of the children or other such contingency, for it is not only much less, as it should be in any well-conducted school, than the ordinary rate of mortality about London for children of the same age, but less than occurs through a considerable period in any mixed collection of children, among whom the common diseases of childhood, measles, hooping-cough, &c., are arising.

In Mr. Aubin's establishment there had been for the last two years an average of about 650 children, and it appears that there have been during that time 66 deaths, giving a rate of mortality of very nearly 5 per cent. per annum. It appears, however, that the parish of St. James, for one, as stated in the report of the guardians, sent to him only or chiefly their invalid children, who were deemed more particularly to need pure country air. The general aspect of the children here, although superior to that of the mass of poor London children, was not that of the degree of health which the country residence, &c., is calculated to give. A proportion of them, not inconsiderable, looked pale and weakly; about 20 seemed more decidedly unwell, and nine were in the infirmary confined to bed in advanced stages of severe disease, chiefly of scrofulous character.

From the comprehensive table of mortality prepared by F. Bailey, esq., for the Committee of the House of Commons which sat in 1827, to consider the laws respecting benefit societies, I extract the following

STATEMENT of the Number of Persons alive out of 1,000 born at the several ages and places mentioned.

AGE.	LONDON.	CARLISLE.	VIENNA.	BERLIN.
0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1	680	846	542	633
2	548	778	471	528
3	492	707	430	485
4	452	720	400	434
5	426	680	377	403
6	410	668	357	387
7	397	659	344	376
8	388	654	337	367
9	380	649	331	361
10	373	646	327	356

This shows that in London half of the children born die without reaching the age of three years, and gives for London, as a whole, an average rate of mortality, between the ages of one and ten, of nearly six per cent.; the rate being still greater for Vienna and Berlin, but much less for Carlisle; and as further appears in the table, less also, although in different degrees, for other smaller towns in England. But to make a comparison between the facts here recorded and the case of Mr. Aubin's and other such establishments, or between one establishment and another, which comparison should serve as a sufficient test of the management, an accurate account of the ages of the children, and of many other particulars, not easily procurable, would be required. For instance, for some establishments there have been selections made of sick children, as in the case mentioned of those from St. James' parish, sent to Mr. Aubin's, and of healthy children for others, where the sick were detained in the parish infirmaries, &c. When we reflect that pauper children in towns are often the offspring of the most dissolute, diseased and wretched of the human race, and naturally inherit the consequences of their parents' debauchery, we should be surprised if the rate of mortality

tality were not greater among them at their parents' homes than among the children of independent labourers or virtuous parents. The much more favourable circumstances, however, in which the children at pauper schools are usually placed, not only counteract such morbid tendencies, but reduce the rate of mortality among them far below that among children throughout the community.

The more particular remarks which I made on Mr. Aubin's establishment in relation to the four essentials to health above-enumerated, and of which remarks those relating to air and warmth are in a degree applicable to every crowded establishment about London, may be conveniently stated in the following order.

1. *Aliment.*—This, judging from the samples exhibited to me of the things used, and the statement made of the practice pursued, I judged to be superior in quantity and quality to what the industrious labouring poor in England usually give or can afford to their children at home. And evidence given by other medical men at other times, and by deputations from parish boards of directors, favours the conclusion that the plan of dieting was uniformly good. The selection of articles, the cooking, the quantity and times of meals, all seemed to me to be well managed. The breakfasts were stated to be bread and butter, with warm milk and water, and twice a week, in very cold weather, milk porridge. The dinners, roast or boiled beef or mutton with potatoes three times a week, pease-soup twice a week, suet or rice puddings once a week, bread and cheese once a week; good table-beer five times a week; the supper always bread and butter with warm milk and water.

2. *Air.*—The air of Norwood, from the elevated situation and soil and the distance from swamps or other sources of deterioration, is admirably pure; and in Mr. Aubin's establishment care is taken that odours from the kitchen, the wash-house, privies, &c., shall not enter to contaminate the air of the school-rooms and bed-rooms. Notwithstanding this, when I entered the great school-room, containing from 300 to 400 boys, I was instantly struck by a strong odour, namely the concentrated breath and exhalations of the crowd of human beings. And what I was then breathing was the kind of air in which the children, during winter, pass the whole day except the short intervals during which the cold allows them to be out of doors, and this air was, perhaps, yet less impure than that in which they pass the whole of their nights when shut up in their dormitories. In all the rooms of the house where there were many children, I perceived more or less of the same odour, and in the infirmary other odours were superadded.

Now a human being, if his mouth and nostrils be kept shut, or if a bag be applied over them preventing the entrance of any air but what he has already breathed, is suffocated forthwith, and in his ordinary breathing he absolutely destroys or poisons the oxygen of nearly a gallon of air per minute, which quantity by mixing with more contaminates and unfits for use at least three times as much; and in any case, unless ventilation to that extent, and in proportion to the number of persons present, be provided for, the air is soon in a state which will seriously affect the health of those living in it.

The history of the prison, since called the Black Hole, at Calcutta, furnishes a shocking example in illustration of this, in which, of 146 military men confined for a few hours without ventilation, only 23 survived the short confinement. The distress, often followed by serious illness, which many people feel in crowded and unventilated churches, courts of justice, theatres, and other meeting places, furnishes other examples; and but that the meetings are usually of short duration, and that persons when they feel about to faint escape from them, and thereby warn those remaining to open windows and doors, fatal occurrences, even in these situations, would not be unfrequent. Where the invisible poison is less concentrated, but of longer continued operation, as formerly in crowded and ill-ventilated ships and prisons, fevers of the worst description are the consequence, called gaol and ship fevers; and where this poison exists in a still weaker degree, as not long ago in many of our manufactories, milliners' work-rooms, &c., the health of the inmates was gradually destroyed, while the true cause remained unsuspected. And within a few years, since the establishment of infant schools, there have been instances of the children being collected at first in small rooms where no fit provision had been made for ventilation, and where sickness broke out among them from the same cause.

In Mr. Aubin's establishment the ventilation has been sought by the means used in many other crowded schools, hospitals, &c., namely by openings made through the wall near the ceiling as directly into the air as where panes of glass are broken, with sliding doors to close them when desired. Now this means is far from insuring the object. In winter, when the fires are burning, these openings, instead of being channels of escape for impure air, become entrances for cold air, which pours down upon those sitting near them, and reaching the floor chills the feet of the others as it runs along to supply the draught of the chimneys. Persons sitting under or near these openings being likely to catch severe colds or inflammations, generally, when they can, close them to obtain security. If these openings be very numerous they may effect sufficient ventilation, but it will be at the expense of another of the four essentials, warmth. It is in winter chiefly that the mischiefs now spoken of from imperfect ventilation are likely to arise, for in warmer weather windows may be freely opened, although with some hazard to those sitting near them.

Now to effect perfect ventilation in any case with absolute certainty is a problem not difficult to solve, if existing knowledge be brought to bear upon it, and that the object has not been long ago and universally accomplished, is owing altogether to the fact of public attention not having yet been awakened to its extreme importance. The ventilation of our apartments in dwelling-houses, by the draught of the chimney, is very faulty, for it takes away rather the pure air which is under the level of the chimney-piece than the impure breath which has ascended from our lungs to the ceiling, and which must again come down

Appendix (C.)
No. 1 *a*.
Report of
Neil Arnott, Esq.
M.D.

before it go out; but as the space is usually great in proportion to the number of persons present, except on occasions of crowded parties, no inconvenience is felt. It was in cotton factories, where steam-engines exist to do any desired work, and where everybody is familiar with machinery, that perfect ventilation by mechanical means was first thought of and executed, and the result has been beneficial, as stated. An illustrative anecdote is told in Dr. Ure's lately published "Philosophy of Manufactures," of a proprietor, who, having established mechanical ventilation in his factory, was surprised soon after by his operatives coming to him in a body to demand either the removal of the new apparatus or a rise of wages. The reason assigned was, that they now required so much more food than formerly; when he assured them that he had incurred the expense for their good, they are reported to have expressed their willingness to compromise the affair, by taking half the increase of wages, if the ventilation were stopped two days in the week out of the six. For the ventilation of factories, a wheel, on the principle of the fanner used in barns, is placed at an opening communicating with the space to be ventilated, and being turned with any desired rapidity, extracts air to the required extent. A smaller wheel of the same kind for small apartments might be worked by a weight, as the common kitchen jack; or instead of a wheel, a pump, or vibrating gasometer cylinders might be used, or any other of the contrivances for such a purpose which engineers know or would suggest. For a house like Mr. Aubin's, one apparatus might by a branching tube or channel be made to draw the air with any speed from every room in the building. Such a mode of ventilating becomes in winter of much increased importance, from its connection with the mode of warming to be spoken of below.

3. *Warmth.*—In winter, persons sitting without exertion, and clothed as is usual in England, require a temperature of from 60° to 65° to be comfortably warm, and their feeling of comfort is a measure of their security from the diseases produced by cold; now by an open fire it is impossible to give such temperature to the whole of a large room, a truth illustrated by the fact of persons, when allowed, generally placing themselves in a circle round the fire, beyond which they would be too cold, and within which they would be too hot; and when in a large room with an open fire there is a numerous company tolerably warm, they are generally maintaining their temperature in great part by their own impure breath. The frequency of chilblains among children at school, where many have to sit for considerable portions of time in the same room, and all therefore cannot equally share the influence of the open fire, is evidence in point, that ailment being a consequence of the feet having been chilled, because not sufficiently clothed to defend them when either too far from the fire, or placed in a stratum of cold air moving along the floor to feed the open fire. The heat afforded by a close iron stove, such as is used in Germany and Russia, is more uniform than that of an open fire, and is not attended by the draughts, &c., accompanying the latter; but is objectionable from the very offensive and often pernicious state of the air, produced by the contact with the overheated iron. In England, where large rooms, like those of cotton factories, occupied by many people, have been well warmed, the means have been pipes of hot water or steam spreading in the apartment to warm the whole equally, while the fresh air for ventilation is heated as it enters by coming into contact with these pipes. To common understanding it must be evident that air admitted to a crowded room to supply the rapid ventilation should be nearly of the warmth existing in the room, otherwise there is likely to be dangerous cold draughts blowing on some of the inmates, or at least there may be very unequal warming of the room.

For the warming of Mr. Aubin's great school-room for the boys, which is about 170 feet long, but narrow, there is an open fire at each end, with a close stove near it, to be lighted in very cold weather.

For the reason given above these are very imperfect means of warming a room of such dimensions, and the consequence is that the temperature must depend not a little on the hot, impure breath of the children. And in such a room, depending for its ventilation on the openings through the wall above described, there must be either much too low a temperature if the ventilation be considerable, or hazardous cold draughts and unequal heating if it be otherwise.

Of the modes of warming now in common use, that by pipes of hot water or steam, as seen in the Hanwell Lunatic Asylum and many other extensive buildings, is the only one suitable for rooms of such dimensions as some of Mr. Aubin's rooms; but if he were to adopt the mechanical mode of ventilation described above, and already common in factories, an addition might be made to the apparatus for extricating the impure air, which would drive fresh air in, and which, by causing the two currents to pass each other in contact for a certain distance in very thin metallic tubes, would cause the fresh air entering to absorb nearly the whole heat from the impure air going out, and would thus render it at once both pure and warm air; and would consequently save, after the room were once warmed, any further expense of fuel for the day, and would avoid, how rapid soever the ventilation, all the dangers from draughts and unequal heating. This simple mode of changing, and at the same time keeping warm the air of any enclosed space, with an improved means of originally warming the space, were particularly described by me in a lecture delivered at the Royal Institution on the 18th March, which lecture will shortly be published with explanatory drawings.

When I delivered that lecture, I was not aware that any question had been raised as to the management of Mr. Aubin's establishment, nor, therefore, that I should have the honour of being deputed to examine into the circumstances. It is satisfactory to me to find that all my professional brethren, including some of the most eminent of them, who have visited the establishment, have agreed in assigning much importance to the ventilation, although they differed as to the means of effecting it.

At Mr. Aubin's, the dress of the children is such as is usually deemed sufficient for children

children in a London winter, and would be sufficient if the proper temperature of the dwelling were steadily maintained. But if we reason very strictly on the subject, because air of any temperature when in motion affects the body as air somewhat colder which is at rest, the elevated and therefore more windy situation of Norwood would require clothing rather warmer than lower and more sheltered situations. The bed clothing appeared to me sufficient. The number of beds, however, did not appear much to exceed 200, although the number of children had usually exceeded 600.

4. *Exercise of Body and Mind.*—The adoption, at Mr. Aubin's, of the infant school system had insured to the younger portion of the children much suitable exercise, and in regard to all the children, the hours appointed for application and relaxation were what are usual. There can be no doubt, however, that more exercise in the open air than the children now have, particularly in winter, and wider space in which to amuse themselves, would be advantageous. The children looked in general happy and pleased with the persons superintending them.

The school-rooms, bed-rooms, clothes and beds of the children were clean, so that the poison of filth was not allowed to operate upon their health; and in their play-grounds they seemed not to be exposed to any mechanical injury from violent efforts likely to be made, or falls, leaps, &c. There seemed to be rooms to allow of a sufficient separation of the children in case of any probable degree of contagious disease arising among them. The sick children are treated by a highly respectable medical practitioner, whose attention however may not have been drawn to the question of the comparative prevalence of sickness here and in some other establishments, but merely to the management of cases of disease as they arose. The infirmary attendance might be better.

Upon the whole, then, the defects in the management of this establishment are chiefly those which are common in greater or less degrees to the management not only of such establishments generally, but even to that of schools for the education of the children of the wealthy classes, and indeed in a remarkable degree to that of our churches, assembly-rooms, courts of law, houses of parliament, and even of our best private houses, when filled with company; and they respect the two of the four essentials to healthy human existence which are invisible, and the nature and operation of which, therefore, until recently, have been comparatively little understood, namely, air and heat. The consequences of such defects of management have been more remarkable here than in some smaller establishments, owing to the greater number of children collected together. That it is possible to control what regards these two subtle agents as certainly as what regards the more palpable requisite of aliment, I hope will soon be popularly understood. The publication to which I have already referred, is intended to aid in spreading this kind of knowledge; and I believe that when such control shall be intelligent and complete, not a little of the disease and consequent misery, which still disfigure the face of civilized society, will disappear.

The impression which has spread abroad, that the diseases occurring in Mr. Aubin's and other such establishments have been caused altogether by bad or insufficient diet, appears to me in general quite destitute of foundation. When we reflect how healthy the Irish and Scotch children are, who live entirely on potatoes and oatmeal, and many of whose parents use only the same nourishment; and that many of the strongest races of men, as some of the Spanish peasantry, the Neapolitans, &c., use little animal food; and when we know that in prisons and penitentiaries, where the dietary has been rendered more vegetable, the health of the inmates, instead of being hurt by the change, has been almost uniformly improved, there being diminution among them of the former rate of sickness and mortality, we can conceive how groundless the view which attributes disease among children to such a dietary as above detailed for Mr. Aubin's establishment, and the dietary there nearly corresponds with that in many other establishments.

If it be an object of pauper management to do as much good to the destitute, that is, in a great proportion of cases, to persons who have been idle, dissolute and improvident, with their offspring, as can be done without injustice to the industrious classes, at whose expense they are to be relieved, and to do good to them and to the public conjointly, by awakening in those of them who are able to work, a spirit of industry and prudence, no needlessly pleasing associations with the workhouse life should be established in their minds to draw them to it. It is for their own future happiness, not less than for the welfare of the community, that, consistently with the preservation of bodily health and due training, the discipline in all respects should be rigid. And for the same reason that ribbons are not added to the substantial dress of the pauper girls, to gratify their vanity and produce such associations as we have spoken of, savoury meats should not be substituted for diet equally wholesome which costs less, and has to be supplied by the industry of rate-payers, many of whom can barely give such to their own children.

This argument is not meant to bear against giving to the pauper children as good an education as the time and circumstances will admit, even if it be a little better than that which some of the industrious poor give to their own children; for while a really judicious education, inspiring a love of honesty and benevolence with habits of application, will secure to the objects of it independence, and will thus render them little likely ever again to apply to the workhouse, the community will also be thereby benefited by getting useful members; and those of the poorer classes who are the nearest to wanting public assistance are often so little able to appreciate the importance of education, that they will not deem the advantage of the pauper school a reason for sending their children to it rather than to others paid for by themselves. As soon, however, as the pauper children have received the essential elements of education, and are able to work a little for their own support, they should enter the school of active employment, and become useful as servants of some degree. The fact that it is possible

Appendix (C.)

No. 1 *a*.
Report of *Neil Arnott*, Esq. M.D.

cheaply to give good education to pauper children, should become a strong reason for contriving means for educating well the whole labouring community.

To conclude, it appears to me that, in relation to the children's health at Mr. Aubin's and other such establishments, what is now chiefly necessary, is to require the adoption in them of effectual means for ventilating and warming, or such a reduction of the number of children as may diminish the mischief from defect of these requisites to the lowest degree. The cold and most trying season of the year is now past, and means completely adequate for the desired purposes may easily be introduced before next winter.

I beg leave to suggest the expediency of calling the attention of whatever able architect the board employs to the subject, and when a satisfactory arrangement has been tried in one case, it can, through the central agency of a body like your Board, be speedily introduced wherever your influence extends.

Bedford-square, 21 April 1836. (signed) *N. Arnott.*

— No. 1 *b*. —

REMARKS on Dr. *Arnott*'s System of Warming and Ventilating, as applied to Workhouses, by *Sampson Kempthorne*, Esq., Architect.

No. 1 *b*.
Remarks by *S. Kempthorne*, Esq.

The apparatus for warming is exceedingly cheap, and is simple in its construction, therefore not likely to get out of order; its self-regulating principle is admirably calculated to circulate a wholesome and genial heat in the apartments requiring warming. The very small consumption of fuel is also a great recommendation requiring little attention, and would therefore be very clean.

Respecting the system of ventilation, I could have wished to have seen it in operation, before giving a decided opinion upon it; but arguing from given principles of the action of the air, I have no doubt that it would answer perfectly. The plan is, to have a flue near the top of the room, communicating with the exterior, where a wheel is moved round in order to create a vacuum in the flue, which draws the vitiated air from the room. On the same plan fresh air might be brought from other flues into the lower part of the room in an opposite direction to that in which the vitiated air escapes. The system appears to have been acted upon with success in several large manufactories in the north, though of course the power of steam which is there used to generate the necessary currents, could not be employed in workhouses; but as Dr. Arnott suggests, sufficient motion might, with great facility, be given by lines and weights, as common kitchen-jacks are often turned.

The expense of this system could not be great, when compared with the expense of a large workhouse; and I am decidedly of opinion that in all large wards which have windows only on one side, some well-regulated system of ventilation such as this is absolutely necessary for the well-being of the inmates, and of the sick and infirm especially, as they cannot have opportunities of changing the air they breathe in the rooms. I have myself, from conviction of its necessity, always used single wards with windows on both sides, and I have never heard that in these there has been the least complaint of want of ventilation.

The workhouse of Camberwell parish has the wards double, on the old system, with windows only on one side; the guardians have requested me to recommend some system of ventilation to be applied to these rooms, and I shall certainly propose to them to try Dr. Arnott's system as most likely to answer the required purpose.

Carlton Chambers, 12, Regent-street, 19 July 1836. *Sampson Kempthorne*, Architect.

— No. 2 *a*. —

REPORT on the Religious Instruction of In-door Paupers in *Eastry* Union: by *E. C. Tufnell*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Gentlemen, 26 June 1836.

No. 2 *a*.
Religious Instruction of In-door Paupers.

Report of *E. C. Tufnell*, Esq.

I have been making particular inquiries into the efficiency of the means that have been adopted for affording religious and moral instruction to the inmates of Eastry workhouse, with the view of ascertaining what grounds there were for the application that has been made to you to permit them to leave the house on Sundays for the purpose of attending Eastry church. I cannot better describe the present opportunities for religious instruction that are given in the house, than in the words of the chairman, who has sent me the following account. "In this establishment religious worship is never omitted; grace is always said at meals; morning and evening prayers are daily read, with a portion of Scripture. On the Sabbath, all who are not invalids assemble in the commodious chapel within the precincts, which is built to accommodate 300 persons, where Divine Service, according to the rites of the established church, is duly and piously celebrated by the appointed chaplain, who not only gives them a sermon on that day, but generally one on Tuesday in each week. Bibles and

and Prayer Books are liberally bestowed; the sick are visited, and every facility given to religious exercise."

I am informed that previous to the formation of the Union, there being no chaplain to the house, which was then the central workhouse to a Gilbert Union, the inmates were allowed to attend Eastry church, which caused a complaint on the part of the clergyman, that the church was crowded with paupers to the inconvenience of the other inhabitants. Were they permitted to attend the church now, this complaint would be still more justly made, as there is only room for 150 in the church, while the congregation in the workhouse chapel averages 250. In fact, if we consider that there are two full services performed in the week, and the chaplain is ready to give as many more as may be required; that he is always at hand to impart religious consolation, and that morning and evening prayers are constantly read; it will be obvious that the workhouse inmates not only enjoy greater opportunities for religious instruction than fall to the lot of independent labourers, but that few persons anywhere of any rank, out of the universities, are so favourably situated for these advantages. Some of the paupers, I was assured, had complained that they had too much Divine Service, a complaint which seems to me extremely likely to arise, if we consider the previous habits and condition of many of the inmates, and which obviously ought to render us extremely cautious, lest, by giving more of what is already distasteful, we help to turn religion into a mockery, and confirm a disinclination for that on which each person's eternal happiness depends.

It is an error to suppose that these two weekly services can be considered in any other light than public services, or that they at all resemble private or family worship. The congregation averaging, as I have stated above, 250 persons, is considerably larger than is to be met with in nine-tenths of country churches, and the workhouse being divided into five distinct wards, the inmates are mostly strangers to each other, except during the times of service. In fact, Divine Service performed in the workhouse only differs from that in parish churches by the room being smaller and less decorated, the absence of an organ, and the inferior pomp and circumstance of the celebration. These are points which may possibly be of importance in a religion of forms and ceremonies, but are assuredly worth little consideration to a Protestant population, who profess a religion of the heart, and who worship God in spirit and in truth.

I have seen so many instances of the disorderly effects that have arisen from permitting the paupers to leave the house, in the crowding of beer-shops and other evil results, some of which have been witnessed in this very Union, and it being obvious that there is not the shadow of a ground for the complaint of a deficiency of religious instruction, that there appears to me no reason for, but every reason against, allowing the required indulgence; and as this restraint is the only circumstance which makes the condition of the workhouse inhabitant less eligible than that of the independent labourer, to relax it would be partially to revert to the old demoralizing system: and in fact the demand on the part of the paupers should be considered not as a demand for more church, but for less restraint.

I have, &c.

To The Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales. *E. Carleton Tufnell.*

— No. 2 *b.* —

COMMUNICATIONS on the Restriction of the Egress of Paupers from the Workhouse.

I.—NOTE from Lord *John Russell.*

LORD JOHN RUSSELL, having received a letter from Mr. Plumptre, on the subject of the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act, has transmitted a copy of it for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners.

Whitehall, 16 May 1836.

II.—LETTER from *John P. Plumptre*, Esq.

My Lord, 3, Great George-street, 14 May 1836.

I HAVE the honour of forwarding to your lordship a petition to His Majesty from a large body of labourers of East Kent, in reference to the Poor Law Amendment Act. The number of names attached to it is, I think, about 3,000; may I beg your lordship to present it to His Majesty. My own hope and opinion is that the Act is working and will work well for all parties; and that the labourers themselves, though they must experience some distress for a time from a refusal of relief to them except in the workhouses, will ere long find cause to be thankful that they have been thrown upon their own energies and exertions.

I take the liberty of submitting to your lordship, whether the Poor Law Commissioners might not relax in some degree, and under certain regulations, the system now, I believe, adopted of never allowing the inmates of the workhouses, not even the old people, to go out of its walls for air and exercise. This confinement leads the labourers to call the workhouses prisons, and excites strong feelings in their minds against them.

I have, &c. (signed) *John P. Plumptre.*

To the Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Appendix (C.)

No. 2 *b.* Workhouse discipline.

Report of *E. C. Tufnell*, Esq.

III.—REPORT to the Poor Law Commissioners, in reference to the foregoing Communication, on the Restriction of the Egress of Paupers from the Workhouse: by *E. C. Tufnell*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Gentlemen,

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the letter addressed by Mr. Plumptre to Lord John Russell: in which a complaint is made, that the rule of confining the workhouse inmates to the precincts of the workhouses is acted upon with cruel rigidness in the county of Kent, especially as respects the aged paupers.

Though none of the regulations issued by your board prescribes this strict confinement, yet I believe that when applied to you have always approved of it; and as I have invariably recommended it to boards of guardians, I beg to state the reasons that induce me to think this restriction of paramount importance.

The great secret of poor law reform, and the main object of all the machinery of guardians, workhouses, relieving officers, &c., is—to place the pauper in a worse condition than the independent labourer,—to take every precaution that he who cannot support himself, but is supported by the labour of others, should not be allowed a larger share of the comforts of life than he who relies solely for maintenance on his own exertions. The equity of this object is so obvious that I have never heard it questioned by any one; but I now wish to direct your attention to the extent to which it is attained by the workhouse system of relief.

If we compare the interior of a labourer's cottage with a workhouse managed according to your regulations, we shall find the latter superior to the former in every point of comfort and convenience; and in the newly-erected workhouses especially, which are universal in East Kent, this superiority is strikingly manifest. The dietary, in spite of the complaints made of it, is, I am satisfied, more than the great majority of inmates can consume, and considerably better than is generally obtained by independent labourers in this county. Every requisite of bedding, of clothing, of furniture, is supplied in the workhouses of a quality beyond all comparison better than can be met with in the cottages. The rooms are more cleanly, airy and better built; whilst instead of the dirty and indecent huddling together of offices and persons, as is the too frequent practice in labourers' dwellings, here each apartment has its distinct and appropriate use. There is one room for sleeping, another for eating, another for cooking, another for washing, &c. &c. If a workhouse inmate is ill, there is the hospital ready to receive him, where the best medical attendance is daily, and, if necessary, hourly supplied; where he is constantly waited upon by persons appointed to nurse him; and where every article of diet that the physician may think calculated to hasten recovery, or alleviate the pain of disease, is instantly and unsparingly given. If he desires moral or religious instruction, the chaplain is at hand to impart it; whatever may be his persuasion, a minister of his choice is immediately sent for, should he demand it: the bed of death in a workhouse need never be without the consolations of religion.

In short, the inmates of a workhouse are almost free from those annoyances that embitter the lives of other persons: they have no cares for the present, and no anxieties for the future; food, clothing, bedding, house accommodation come to them without thought on their part, as regularly and surely as the rising of the sun. Hence it is obvious, that in all the above points the system we have established is wrong: the object in view,—of making the pauper worse off than the independent labourer,—is not attained; and the plague of pauperism would speedily return, were it not for the single circumstance that the workhouse imposes restraint. This restraint is our sole safeguard against a recurrence of the evils we have just escaped: should it be even partially removed, the condition of the workhouse inmates is instantly, in every point, superior to that of other labourers in an almost infinite degree; the houses, were they five times as extensive as they are, would be filled; the rates would quickly mount up, and the whole country be as pauperised as before. The concluding paragraph of Mr. Plumptre's letter says, "This confinement leads the labourers to call the workhouses prisons, and excites strong feelings in their minds against them." Were it otherwise I fear they would call them palaces, as with reference to their usual mode of living they reasonably might, and entertain equally strong feelings in favour of them.

The preceding observations are intended to apply chiefly to the aged inmates of the workhouses, as it is with respect to them that the charge of cruelty is principally brought. I am sure, however, that there is no ground for complaint, and that it is mostly made for them, not by them. I have frequently asked the old paupers, whether they were in want of anything, and have always, except in one instance, been answered with expressions of satisfaction. The East Ashford workhouse is just opened, and the master replied to my inquiries, "The old men, Sir, who have just entered, say they never were so comfortable before; when I told them I would take care of their clothes, and give them back again when they left, they said they would remain there all their lives." In fact, to the old, restraint is so little of a hardship, the quiet and excellent accommodation of these new workhouses is so congenial to their time of life, that I much fear lest they should become attractive, when experience has shown that they are not so comfortless as described. At present, their prison-like appearance, and the notion that they are intended to torment the poor, inspires a salutary dread of them. I have taken several persons, ladies as well as others, to visit them, who have invariably returned loud in praise of the comfort they afford, and confessed the groundlessness of their previous prepossessions against them. These praises, however, always sound to me fraught with evil forebodings, the realisation of which can only be prevented by carefully keeping up what seems to me our sole barrier against them, a system of restraint.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

E. Carleton Tufnell,
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

— No. 3 *a.* —

CIRCULAR to the Boards of Guardians, on the Arrangements made for affording Medical Relief.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House, 20 May 1836.

The Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales are desirous of receiving information from the board of guardians, as to the adequacy or inadequacy, as shown in their experience, of the present medical arrangements adopted within the Union for the relief of the paupers of the several parishes comprised in it. They are desirous of knowing the comparative efficiency of the medical relief now provided, as compared with the relief administered in the several parishes before the formation of the Union. The Commissioners wish also to be informed whether any complaints of neglect have been made to the guardians from paupers, or proper objects, whose necessities entitled them to medical relief; and whether the guardians deem those complaints, or any of them, to have been well founded, and if so, whether any or what steps have been taken with relation thereto.

The Commissioners also request to know whether the guardians have been enabled to take any steps for the formation of sick clubs; and if so, what success is likely to attend their efforts.

The Commissioners request at the same time to be informed of the total number of individuals who have received medical relief, or of cases entered in the registers of sickness as treated by each medical officer within the Union since its formation, specifying the number of the cases arising from accident, and the cases of midwifery which they have been called upon to attend on account of the Union.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians. *Edwin Chadwick*, Secretary.

— No. 3 *b*. —

ABSTRACT of Answers received from 296 Unions and Parishes placed under Boards of Guardians, to the Queries contained in a Circular Letter addressed to the Boards of Guardians, dated 20 May 1836.

NAME OF UNION.	POPULATION.	What is the Total Number of Individuals who have received Medical Relief within the Union since its Formation,— specifying the Number of Cases arising from Accident, and the Cases of Widwifery?					Are the present Medical arrangements adopted within the Union adequate or inadequate for the Relief of the Paupers of the several Parishes comprised in it?	What is the comparative efficiency of the Medical Relief now provided, as compared with the Relief administered prior to the formation of the Union?	Have any complaints of neglect been made to the Guardians from Paupers, or proper objects, whose necessities entitle them to Medical Relief?	Have the Guardians been enabled to take any steps for the formation of Sick Clubs, and if so, what success is likely to attend their efforts?
		Total Number of Paupers attended.			Period of Attendance.		Average Number of Paupers attended per Month.			Proportion of					
		Ordinary Cases of Sickness.	Accidents.	Midwifery.	From	To	Ordinary Cases of Sickness.	Accidents.	Midwifery.	Accidents to Ordinary Cases.	Midwifery to Ordinary Cases.				
Abingdon	9,626	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	quite adequate	not stated	none	none.
Aldesbury	13,227	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	cannot state	cannot state	none	none.
Alresford	6,971	566	30	7	1 June 1835	1 June 1836	47	2½	7–12	1–19	1–81	quite adequate	far superior	none	none.
Alton	10,342	1,361	22	1	20 April –	20 April –	113	2	1–12	1–62	1–1361	adequate	quite as efficient	none	yes.
Amersham	15,331	1,907	12	11	5 May –	5 Mar. –	191	1	1	1–159	1–173	ditto	ditto	none	– – yes, and some have been formed.
Amesbury	7,084	188	15	–	25 Mar. 1836	6 June –	78	6	–	1–13	–	cannot state	cannot state	none	none.
Ampthill	14,357	822	58	7	1 April –	21 – –	295	21	3	1–14	1–118	adequate	quite as efficient	none	yes.
Andover	16,481	319	6	3	9 July 1835	7 – –	29	1	1–3	1–53	1–106	ditto	ditto	none	yes.
Ashford, East	472	11	27	29 May –	25 May –	40	1	2	1–34	1–17	as adequate	ditto	none	yes.
Ashford, West	10,758	212	6	27	3 June –	14 June –	20	1	2	1–35	1–8	ditto	much more efficient	none	none.
Atherstone	9,489	86	4	–	26 April 1836	11 July –	36	2	–	1–22	–	ditto	cannot state	none	yes.
Aylesbury	21,480	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	ditto	as efficient	– – two or three, which upon investigation proved to be without foundation.	none.
Aylesford, North	12,171	505	14	9	7 Sept. 1835	2 June –	57	–	–	1–136	1–56	ditto	ditto	none	none.
Aylesham	19,351	81	–	3	11 April 1836	6 July –	33	–	1	–	1–27	cannot state	cannot state	not stated	none.
Axbridge	38,794	401	15	17	28 Jan. –	2 June –	97	4	4	1–27	1–24	ditto	ditto	none	none.
Axminster	19,490	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	– – are likely to be as adequate.	– – are likely to be as efficient.	none	none.
Banford	22,533	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Barnet	12,180	166	8	4	during 7½ months		22	1	1	1–21	1–41	as adequate	as efficient	none	– – yes, and it is likely to succeed.
Barnstaple	33,198	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	cannot state	cannot state	not stated	none.
Basford	51,794	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Basingstoke	15,479	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	not stated	as efficient	none	none.
Battle	12,068	1,609	2	48	10 June 1835	18 July –	121	–	4	1–805	1–34	ditto	ditto	none	– – yes, and two sick clubs have been formed.
Beaminster	13,869	183	3	3	28 Mar. 1836	7 – –	55	1	1	1 61	1–61	as adequate	cannot state	none	– – yes, and one has been established.
Bedford	28,033	634	32	32	during 6 months		106	5	5	1–20	1–20	ditto	more efficient	not stated	– – sick clubs have been formed.
Belminster	13,869	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Berkhampstead	9,871	734	33	23	12 June 1835	18 July –	56	3	3	1–22	1–32	as adequate	more efficient	– – yes, and the medical men were remonstrated with.	yes.
Bermondsey	29,741	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	cannot state	cannot state	not stated	none.
Bicester	14,850	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	not stated	as efficient	none	– – yes, and those formed are likely to be successful.
Bideford	17,787	500	34	5	25 Mar. 1836	24 June –	166	11	2	1–15	1–100	cannot state	cannot state	none	none.

Biggleswade	18,129	905	12	12	during 12 months		75	1	1	1-75	1-75	as adequate	as efficient	none	- yes, and clubs have been successfully formed.
Billericay	12,529	103	2	7	during 2 months		52	1	4	1-52	1-15	- ditto	- ditto	none	none.
Billesdon	6,194	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	cannot state	cannot state	not stated	none.
Bingham	14,773	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	- ditto	- ditto	ditto	none.
Bishop's Stortford	18,012	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	as adequate	as efficient	- - yes, which were duly investigated.	none.
Blaby	13,061	262	11	3	6 Feb. 1836	16 July 1836	52	2	1	1-24	1-87	- ditto	- ditto	none	- yes, and some have been formed.
Blandford	13,056	330	11	3	5 Dec. 1835	24 –	43	1	–	1-30	1-110	not stated	more efficient	none	none.
Blean	11,139	283	9	1	20 April –	25 Mar. –	25	1	–	1-31	1-283	quite adequate	not stated	- - yes, one, which proved to be without foundation.	none.
Blofield	9,815	427	19	6	5 Oct. –	10 July –	47	2	–	1-22	1-71	- ditto	quite efficient	none	none.
Blything	25,303	523	20	–	25 June –	15 – –	41	2	–	1-26	–	- ditto	- ditto	none	none.
Bosmere and Claydon	15,957	769	7	1	8 Sept. –	7 June –	83	1	–	1-109	1-760	as adequate	as efficient	none	none.
Bourne	17,174	158	18	6	during 2 months		79	9	3	1-9	1-26	cannot state	cannot state	none	yes.
Bradford	12,660	676	52	5	during 12 months		56	4	5-12	1-13	1-135	quite adequate	as efficient	none	- - yes, and one has been formed.
Bradfield	14,682	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	as adequate	- ditto	none	- - some are being formed, under favourable auspices.
Braintree	15,097	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Bridge	10,439	247	3	4	during 12 months		21	3-12	4-12	1-82	1-62	quite as adequate	more efficient	none	none.
Bridgenorth	14,316	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Bridgwater	28,536	247	6	4	11 May 1836	19 July –	108	3	2	1-41	1-62	adequate	more efficient	none	- - yes, and they have been successful.
Bridport	14,644	177	8	1	28 Mar. –	9 – –	52	2	–	1-22	1-177	as adequate	far more efficient	not stated	not stated.
Brixworth	12,461	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	quite as adequate	more efficient	none	- yes, and some clubs have been established.
Bromley	14,413	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Bromyard	11,940	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	- - - ditto.			
Buckingham	13,129	590	19	6	1 Sept. 1835	6 June –	61	2	1	1-31	1-98	adequate	most efficient	none	yes, and successfully.
Buntingford	6,527	79	1	1	during 3 months		26	1-3	1-3	1-79	1-79	as adequate	as efficient	none	- ditto.
Calne	6,763	730	25	3	25 Mar. 1835	27 May –	52	2	–	1-29	1-243	- - as adequate, and highly satisfactory.	- ditto	none	none.
Camberwell	28,231	1,886	52	40	29 Jan. 1836	30 June –	374	11	8	1-36	1-47	the old system still prevails in this Union		not stated	none.
Cambridge	20,917	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Catherington	1,950	187	16	30	29 April 1835	31 Mar. –	17	1	1	1-12	1-14	more adequate	more efficient	ditto	none.
Caxton and Arrington	8,946	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	as adequate	as efficient	none	none.
Cerne	6,763	97	3	3	25 Mar. 1836	24 May –	48	2	2	1-32	1-32	- ditto	- ditto	none	none.
Chailey	6,977	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	- ditto	not stated	none	none.
Chard	23,434	174	11	1	during 1 month		174	11	1	1-16	1-174	quite adequate	more efficient	none	none.
Cheltenham	29,882	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	adequate	cannot state	none	none.
Chepstow	11,433	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	cannot state	- ditto	none	yes.
Chertsey	13,369	513	11	29	25 Mar. 1836	21 July –	31	3	7	1-49	1-19	- ditto	- ditto	none	none.
Chippenham	19,265	571	18	2	during 3 months		190	6	1	1-32	1 285	sufficiently adequate	equally efficient	none	yes.
Chipping Norton	15,355	1,282	34	12	18 Sept. 1835	2 June –	151	4	1	1-38	1-107	as adequate	as efficient	none	none.
Chipping Sodbury	17,931	126	9	4	30 Mar. 1836	24 – –	44	3	1	1-11	1-32	- ditto	- ditto	none	yes.
Christchurch	7,089	214	4	4	during 3 months		71	1	1	1-34	1-54	- ditto	- ditto	not stated	none.
Cirencester	18,720	165	11	3	21 Jan. 1836	12 July –	29	2	1	1-15	1-55	cannot state	cannot state	- ditto	yes.
Clutton	22,377	382	4	5	during 3 months		127	1	2	1-95	1-76	as adequate	more efficient	none	none.
Colchester	16,167	1,869	–	11	during 12 months		156	–	1	–	1-161	- ditto	as efficient	none	yes, and successfully.
Cosford	17,900	524	2	80	1 Aug. 1835	17 June –	50	–	8	1-262	1-7	- ditto	- ditto	- - yes, one, which proved to be without foundation.	yes.
Coxheath	13,582	526	17	70	15 Oct. –	30 May –	70	2	9	1-31	1-8	- ditto	cannot state	none	none.
Cranbourne	6,278	135	8	–	21 Mar. 1836	26 – –	66	4	–	1-17	–	quite adequate	more efficient	none	none.
Cranbrooke	12,816	1,396	30	53	during 6 months		233	5	9	1-17	1-26	as adequate	as efficient	none	none.
Cricklade and Wootton Bassett.	10,275	1,508	20	8	during 3 months		503	7	3	1-75	1-188	- ditto	not stated	none	none.

(continued)

Continued.]

NAME OF UNION.	POPULATION.	What is the Total Number of Individuals who have received Medical Relief within the Union since its formation,— specifying the Number of Cases arising from Accident and the Cases of Midwifery?					Are the present Medical arrangements adopted within the Union adequate or inadequate for the Relief of the Paupers of the several Parishes comprised in it?	What is the comparative efficiency of the Medical Relief now provided, as compared with the Relief administered prior to the formation of the Union?	Have any complaints of neglect been made to the Guardians from Paupers, or proper Objects, whose Necessities entitle them to Medical Relief?	Have the Guardians been enabled to take any steps for the formation of Sick Clubs, and if so, what success is likely to attend their efforts?
		Total Number of Paupers attended.			Period of Attendance.					
		Ordinary Cases of Sickness.	Accidents.	Midwifery.	From	To				
Croydon	22,113	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Cuckfield	12,017	3,361	15	143	26 Nov. 1835	8 July 1836	quite adequate	as efficient	– yes, one, which was duly investigated.	none.
Dartford	21,053	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Daventry	19,137	363	16	8	during 3 months		adequate	as efficient	none	yes.
Depwade	24,768	–	–	–	–	–	as adequate	– ditto	– yes, one, which was investigated.	none.
Devizes	28,638	–	–	–	–	–	cannot state	cannot state	none	none.
Docking	15,376	345	1	1	during 2 months		as adequate	as efficient	none	yes.
Dorchester	12,676	198	6	–	2 Jan. 1836	28 May 1836	– ditto	not stated	none	none.
Droxford	9,549	1,170	50	76	30 Mar. 1835	16 June –	quite adequate	as efficient	none	none.
Dursley	19,518	301	8	3	1 June 1836	9 July –	cannot state	cannot state	none	none.
Eastbourne	7,823	–	–	–	–	–	as adequate	as efficient	none	none.
East Grinstead	11,476	693	25	46	25 Dec. 1835	26 May –	– ditto	– ditto	none	none.
East Hampstead	6,980	265	10	5	27 July –	10 June –	not stated	– ditto	none	yes.
Eastry	23,870	661	8	19	6 June –	21 May –	adequate	– ditto	not stated	yes.
Eltham	14,137	85	3	3	during 1 month		not stated	efficient	none	none.
Ely	17,327	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries		–	yes.
Erpingham	20,024	–	–	–	–	–	– – – – – – – – ditto.			
Eton	18,137	1,539	62	17	25 Mar. 1835	29 July –	adequate	decidedly better	– yes, one, which was reported to the Poor Law Commissioners.	none.
Evesham	12,567	87	3	–	1 June 1836	11 –	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Fareham	12,137	785	77	72	during 12 months		quite adequate	quite efficient	none	none.
Faringdon	14,236	190	15	2	25 Mar. 1836	7 June –	more adequate	more efficient	– yes, and these have arisen from unavoidable reasons.	none.
Faversham	14,923	776	27	39	25 – 1835	20 May –	quite as adequate	– ditto	none	yes.
Fordingbridge	5,567	146	7	4	25 – 1836	30 –	adequate	– ditto	none	not stated.
Freebridge, Lynn	11,489	437	7	2	16 Nov. 1835	9 July –	ditto	as efficient	– yes, which upon investigation proved groundless.	yes.
Frome	26,236	615	27	–	26 Mar. 1836	13 –	ditto	not stated	none	yes.
Gloucester	21,368	–	–	–	–	–	quite adequate	more adequate	none	none.
Godstone	7,367	212	9	7	during 3 months		– ditto	– – very efficient and satisfactory.	none	none.
Grantham	13,988	186	6	4	1 April 1836	24 June –	adequate	as efficient	not stated	none.
Gravesend and Milton	9,445	320	2	15	9 Sept. 1835	18 –	not stated	– ditto	none	none.
Guildford	22,147	–	–	–	–	–	cannot state	cannot state	not stated	none.
Guilteross	11,873	1,082	60	32	6 Nov. –	24 June –	adequate	efficient	none	none.
Hailsham	11,825	–	–	–	–	–	cannot state	cannot state	none	none.
Halstead	15,901	1,541	6	4	6 Nov. –	19 Aug. –	– – medical relief under the old system is still afforded.		none	yes.
Hambledon	11,882	122	1	3	31 May 1836	11 July –	as adequate	as efficient	none	none.
Hardingstone	8,019	124	–	1	25 Mar. –	8 June –	– ditto	– ditto	none	none.

Hartismere	17,871	1,261	59	10	1 Sept. 1835	31 May 1836	110	7	1	1–21	1–26	highly satisfactory and efficient.	superior	none	none.
Hartley Wintney	9,830	6,361	129	21	8 April –	4 June –	–	–	–	–	–	as adequate	as efficient	none	none.
Hastings	13,280	258	10	28	25 Mar. 1836	28 May –	121	5	13	1–26	1–9	ditto	ditto	none	none.
Hatfield	5,933	161	29	2	4 July 1835	3 June –	42	3	1–5	1–16	1–231	ditto	ditto	none	none.
Havant	6,398	422	18	38	27 May –	25 – –	33	1	3	1–23	1–11	ditto	ditto	none	none.
Hemel Hempstead	9,910	337	9	4	12 June –	30 June –	27	1	1–3	1–37	1–84	adequate	very satisfactory	none	none.
Hendon	13,191	387	48	29	1 May –	11 – –	29	4	2	1–8	1–13	ditto	not stated	none	not stated.
Henley	14,651	775	9	22	during 9 months		86	1	2	1–86	1–35	as adequate	most efficient	yes, and the officer was censured for his neglect.	none.
Henstead	10,739	191	10	1	during 3 months		61	3	1–3	1–19	1–191	not absolutely inadequate.	as efficient	none	yes.
Hereford	6,156	–	–	–	– – –	– – –	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Hertford	12,155	–	–	–	– – –	– – –	–	–	–	–	–	– – – – – – – ditto.			
Highworth and Swindon	12,611	424	13	5	during 2 months		212	7	3	1–33	1–85	cannot state	as efficient	none	none.
Hitchin	20,639	1,086	49	18	1 Aug. 1835	28 May –	110	5	2	1–22	1–60	as adequate	ditto	yes, in consequence of relief being refused to able-bodied labourers.	yes, successfully.
Hinckley	13,780	–	–	–	– – –	– – –	–	–	–	–	–	ditto	ditto	none	yes.
Holbeach	14,737	253	5	14	25 Mar. 1836	6 June –	18	1–3	1	1–51	1–18	ditto	not stated	yes, which was investigated.	yes.
Hollingbourne	13,365	480	24	74	12 Oct. 1835	24 – –	57	3	9	1–20	1–6	quite adequate	as efficient	yes, which were investigated and proved groundless.	none.
Honiton	22,330	–	–	–	– – –	– – –	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Hoo	2,623	175	2	3	9 Sept. –	8 July –	18	1–5	1–3	1–88	1–58	quite adequate	more efficient	none	none.
Horsham	12,270	214	12	8	during 3 months		71	4	3	1–18	1–27	not stated	as efficient	none	none.
Hoxne	15,166	–	–	–	– – –	– – –	–	–	–	–	–	quite adequate	ditto	none	none.
Hungerford	18,799	2,716	62	31	1 May 1835	10 June –	129	5	2	1–28	1–55	ditto	quite as efficient	none	none.
Huntingdon	16,859	–	–	–	– – –	– – –	–	–	–	–	–	adequate	ditto	none	none.
Hursley	2 718	155	11	–	11 Aug. –	11 July –	14	1	–	1–14	–	quite as adequate	more efficient	none	yes.
Ipswich	20,528	633	26	9	9 Sept. –	20 – –	61	3	1	1–24	1–70	ditto	as efficient	yes, which was satisfactorily explained.	none.
Kettering	15,464	657	29	3	25 Mar. 1836	14 June –	241	11	1	1–23	1–219	not stated	quite as efficient	none	none.
Kingselere	7,885	–	–	–	– – –	– – –	–	–	–	–	–	quite adequate	cannot state	none	none.
King's Lynn	13,370	725	61	6	30 Sept. 1835	24 June –	82	7	1	1–12	1–120	cannot state	ditto	none	none.
Lambeth	87,856	2,539	83	42	28 Dec. –	24 – –	430	14	7	1–31	1–60	adequate	not stated	none	none.
Langport	16,354	98	10	2	24 June 1836	14 July –	142	15	3	1–10	1–49	cannot state	cannot state	none	none.
Ledbury	11,973	–	–	–	– – –	– – –	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Leighton Buzzard	11,824	1,169	56	13	1 July 1835	11 July –	95	5	1	1–21	1–90	quite adequate	more efficient	yes, two or three, which arose from error.	none.
Lewes	9,297	494	15	12	3 Aug. –	14 June –	49	1	1	1–33	1–41	not stated	as efficient	none	none.
Lexden and Winstree	19,811	–	–	–	– – –	– – –	–	–	–	–	–	adequate	not stated	none	none.
Linton	11,587	–	–	–	– – –	– – –	–	–	–	–	–	quite adequate	more efficient	none	yes.
Loddon and Clavering	8,741	–	–	–	– – –	– – –	–	–	–	–	–	cannot state	cannot state	none	none.
Luton	15,183	–	–	–	– – –	– – –	–	–	–	–	–	quite adequate	more efficient	none	yes.
Lutterworth	13,487	195	17	7	10 Dec. –	19 July –	27	2	1	1–11	1–28	as adequate	equally efficient	not stated	none.
Lymington	9,501	780	18	8	during 12 months		65	2	1	1–43	1–97	quite as adequate	not stated	none	none.
Maldon	18,917	575	18	31	14 Dec. 1835	24 June –	99	3	5	1–32	1–19	the old system of medical relief still prevails in this Union.		none	none.
Malling	16,398	635	12	28	12 Oct. –	3 – –	82	2	4	1–53	1–23	not stated	quite as efficient	none	not stated.
Malmsbury	13,280	–	–	–	– – –	– – –	–	–	–	–	–	ditto	not stated	none	yes.
Market Bosworth	11,365	152	9	–	11 Feb. 1836	16 June –	37	2	–	1–17	–	ditto	quite as efficient	none	not stated.
Market Harborough	11,641	134	4	1	during 2½ months		53	1	–	1–33	1–132	adequate	more efficient	none	yes.
Mansfield	25,400	–	–	–	– – –	– – –	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Marlborough	8,774	492	12	1	during 3½ months		141	3	1–3	1 41	1–492	adequate	as efficient	none	yes.
Medway	33,068	759	34	27	7 Sept. 1835	11 July –	75	3	3	1–22	1–28	quite as adequate	quite as efficient	none	none.
Melksham	18,252	749	2	12	25 Mar. 1836	20 – –	194	1	3	1–375	1–62	adequate	more efficient	yes, which were investigated.	none.

(continued)

Continued.]

NAME OF UNION.	POPULATION.	What is the Total Number of Individuals who have received Relief within the Union since its formation,— specifying the Number of Cases arising from Accident and the Cases of Midwifery?					Are the present Medical arrangements adopted within the Union adequate or inadequate for the Relief of the Paupers of the several Parishes comprised in it?	What is the comparative efficiency of the Medical Relief now provided, as compared with the Relief administered before the formation of the Union?	Have any complaints of neglect been made to the Guardians from Paupers, or proper objects, whose necessities entitle them to Medical Relief?	Have the Guardians been enabled to take any steps for the formation of Sick Clubs, and if so, what success is likely to attend their efforts?
		Total Number of Paupers attended.			Period of Attendance.					
		Ordinary Cases of Sickness.	Accident.	Midwifery.	From	To				
Melton Mowbray	11,225	34	1	1	during 1 month		adequate	efficient	none	none.
Mere	7,494	321	4	3	during 2 months		as adequate	as efficient	none	none.
Mereden	10,481	110	2	5	- - ditto		not stated	- ditto	none	none.
Midhurst	12,239	1,036	19	123	12 May 1835	8 July 1836	75	1	–	1-54	1-8	quite as adequate	more efficient	none	none.
Mildenhall	8,100	171	6	2	during 2½ months		68	2	1	1-28	1-80	not stated	quite as efficient	none	yes.
Milton	10,689	1,160	43	49	during 13 months		90	3	4	1-27	1-24	- ditto	not stated	not stated	yes, and with success.
Mitford and Launditch	27,694	140	6	4	14 May 1836	11 July 1836	72	3	2	1-23	1-35	- ditto	as efficient	none	none.
Newark	25,089	233	19	6	during 11 weeks		92	8	2	1-12	1-39	cannot state	cannot state	none	none.
Newbury	19,054	–	–	–			–	–	–	–	–	not stated	not stated	- - yes, two, which were satisfactorily explained.	not stated.
Newent	11,049	–	–	–			–	–	–	–	–	- ditto	much more efficient	none	none.
New Forest	11,613	330	15	8	during 3 months		110	5	3	1-22	1-41	as adequate	more efficient	none	none.
Newhaven	4,400	148	–	4	- - ditto		49	–	1	–	1-37	quite adequate	quite efficient	- - yes, one, which was satisfactorily explained.	none.
Newmarket	24,590	–	–	–			–	–	–	–	–	cannot state	cannot state	none	yes.
Newport Pagnell	22,087	–	–	–			–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Northampton	21,761	83	5	1	during 2 months		42	3	1-2	1-17	1-83	quite adequate	cannot state	none	none.
Northleach	10,019	377	2	4	25 Mar. 1836	7 July 1836	110	1-2	1	1-188	1-94	- ditto	not stated	none	yes.
Nuneaton	13,068	–	–	–			–	–	–	–	–	not stated	- ditto	none	none.
Oakham	10,336	–	–	–			–	–	–	–	–	cannot state	cannot state	none	none.
Okehampton	20,844	–	–	–			–	–	–	–	–	not stated	not stated	not stated	none.
Ongar	10,989	–	–	–			–	–	–	–	–	- ditto	- ditto	- ditto	yes.
Orsett	8,609	24	2	5	during 2½ months		10	1	2	1-12	1-5	perfectly satisfactory	- ditto	none	yes, and successfully.
Oundle	13,517	–	–	–			–	–	–	–	–	not stated	- ditto	none	none.
Penshurst	6,367	225	11	–	during 3 months		75	4	–	1-20	–	quite adequate	quite efficient	- - yes, which proved frivolous.	yes, and successfully.
Pershore	12,563	578	9	9	28 Sept. 1835	7 June 1836	69	1	1	1-64	1-64	not stated	more efficient	none	none.
Peterborough	20,934	172	3	5	3 Dec. –	11 July –	24	–	1	1-57	1-34	more efficacious, advantageous, and beneficial		none	yes, and successfully.
Petersfield	7,111	487	43	55	27 April –	21 May –	38	3	4	1-11	1-9	adequate	quite as efficient	none	none.
Petworth	9,042	2,016	56	7	14 Sept. –	6 June –	230	6	1	1-36	1-288	- ditto	not stated	not stated	none.
Pewsey	11,674	–	–	–			–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Plomesgate	20,703	1,762	19	20	8 Feb. 1836	30 May –	476	5	6	1-93	1-88	not stated	quite as efficient	- - yes, which proved to be without foundation.	yes.
Poole	11,052	211	12	9	8 May –	9 July –	102	6	4	1-18	1-23	adequate	more efficient	none	none.
Potterspury	8,415	204	9	7	20 May 1835	30 May –	17	1	1	1-23	1-29	fully adequate	quite as efficient	- - yes, which were investigated.	yes, and successfully.
Purbeck	5,959	165	16	–	25 Mar. 1836	10 June –	64	6	–	1-10	–	cannot state	cannot state	not stated	none.
Radford	22,307	–	–	–			–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Reading	16,042	779	20	2	10 Aug. 1835	20 April –	93	2	–	1-39	1-390	adequate	most efficient	none	none.
Retford, East	20,071	–	–	–			–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Ringwood	4,907	85	3	12	29 Sept. –	24 June –	10	–	1	1-28	1-7	fully adequate	more efficient	none	none.
Risbridge	16,192	498	6	9	25 Dec. –	31 May –	96	1	1	1-83	1-55	adequate	- ditto	few at the commencement of the Union, but since then none have been made.	- - yes, and three clubs have been formed.
River	20,507	360	25	22	29 April –	30 May –	28	2	2	1-14	1-16	not stated	quite as efficient	none	yes.

Rochford	12,953	975	16	18	during 3 months		325	5	6	1-61	1-55	quite adequate	- - ditto	none	none.
Romney Marsh	4,859	486	10	18	during 6 months		81	2	3	1-19	1-27	not stated	quite as efficient	none	none.
Romsey	9,969	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	quite as satisfactory	not stated	yes, two, which proved to be groundless.	none.
Ross	12,762	142	4	–	12 April 1836	7 July 1836	50	1	–	1-35	–	adequate	more efficient	none	yes.
Royston	15,671	98	–	–	during 3 months		33	–	–	–	–	cannot state	cannot state	none	yes.
Rugby	16,668	88	1	3	21 May 1836	9 July –	54	1	2	1-88	1-29	- ditto	- ditto	none	yes.
Rye	11,418	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	fully adequate	quite as efficient	none	none.
Saffron Waldon	17,987	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	adequate	not stated	none	none.
St. Alban's	15,833	422	33	14	5 July 1835	21 May –	40	3	1	1-13	1-30	quite adequate	quite as efficient	none	yes, & one has been formed.
St. Faith's	11,126	187	9	3	during 3 months		47	2	1	1-21	1-62	as adequate	more efficient	none	yes.
St. George's, East	38,505	438	16	–	5 April 1836	16 July –	130	5	–	1-27	–	adequate	not stated	none	none.
St. George's, Southwark	39,769	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
St. Ive's	17,271	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	cannot state	cannot state	none	none.
St. Leonard's, Shoreditch	68,564	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	- ditto	- ditto	none	none.
St. Martin-in-the-Fields	23,732	1,670	75	8	during 12 months		139	6	1	1-22	1-209	fully as adequate	quite as efficient	none	none.
St. Olave	20,021	625	25	9	1 Feb. 1836	15 July –	115	5	2	1-25	1-69	cannot state	cannot state	not stated	none.
St. Mary, Rotherhithe	12,875	360	19	13	15 Feb. –	20 May –	114	6	4	1-19	1-27	adequate	not stated	none	none.
Seven Oaks	13,240	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	- ditto	equally efficient	- - yes, which proved to be groundless.	none.
Shaftesbury	12,239	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	as adequate	as efficient	none	none.
Sheppey	9,934	255	2	20	during 12 months		21	1-6	2	1-128	1-13	not stated	more efficient	none	yes.
Shepton Mallett	18,040	581	7	5	during 3 months		194	2	2	1-83	1-116	satisfactory	not stated	- - few, which have been removed.	none.
Sherborne	11,243	296	9	–	- ditto -	- - -	99	3	–	1-35	–	not stated	more efficient	- yes, one, which proved groundless.	none.
Shipston-on-Stour	19,030	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	- ditto	not stated	- - yes, and the officer was reprimanded.	none.
Southam	8,579	40	–	–	30 April 1836	13 July 1836	16	–	–	–	–	quite adequate	- ditto	none	- yes, and clubs have been formed.
South Molton	18,875	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	not stated	- ditto	none	none.
Solihull	11,433	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	- ditto	- ditto	not stated	yes.
South Stoneham	9,447	463	18	12	25 Mar. 1835	25 Mar. –	39	2	1	1-26	1-39	adequate	more efficient	none	- - yes, and one has been formed.
Southwell	23,235	38	–	2	25 April 1836	14 July –	14	–	1	–	1-19	as adequate	as efficient	- - yes, which proved to be without foundation.	not stated.
Spalding	15,579	262	12	7	during 3 months		87	4	2	1-22	1-37	not stated	not stated	not stated	not stated.
Stamford	15,411	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	quite adequate	more efficient	none	none.
Stockbridge	6,552	811	23	11	6 June 1835	29 July –	59	2	1	1-35	1-74	not stated	quite as efficient	none	none.
Stoke-upon-Trent	37,220	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Stow	16,846	1,658	18	3	25 Dec. –	25 May –	331	4	1	1-92	1-553	quite adequate	as efficient	- - yes, one, which arose from a misunderstanding.	yes.
Stow-on-the-Wold	9,195	299	6	3	25 Mar. 1836	24 June –	99	2	1	1-50	1-100	- ditto	more efficient	none	none.
Strand	26,220	81	8	–	24 June –	13 July –	124	12	–	1-10	–	fully adequate	equally efficient	none	none.
Stroud	40,767	136	7	–	1 June 1836	22 July –	80	4	–	1-19	–	- ditto	fully equal	none	- - yes, and one club has been formed.
Sturminster	9,553	153	7	1	during 3 months		51	2	1-3	1-22	1-153	as adequate	more efficient	none	none.
Sudbury	27,896	1,348	36	48	24 Sept. 1835	18 July –	138	4	5	1-37	1-28	quite adequate	- ditto	none	yes.
Swaffham	12,321	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	cannot state	cannot state	cannot state	yes.
Tamworth	12,175	25	–	–	25 Mar. 1836	11 July –	7	–	–	–	–	inadequate	not stated	none	none.
Tenbing	21,002	262	7	11	17 Nov. 1835	7 July –	34	1	1	1-37	1-24	adequate	- ditto	none	none.
Tenterden	10,178	516	5	63	during 7 months		74	1	9	1-103	1-8	- ditto	most efficient	- - The guardians have had only two complaints of neglect from paupers; the first of these cases appeared so bad that the board directed an inquiry to be made by the parish officers, who accordingly took steps to ascertain the fact, and reported that not only was there no cause for the complaint, but that the medical officer paid proper attention to the case, and called in the assistance of another medical man two or three times. In respect to the other case, the medical man was written to, and desired not to permit any grounds in future to exist on which complaints could rest.	none.
Tetbury	5,797	88	5	–	31 Mar. 1836	8 July –	27	2	–	1-18	–	fully adequate	equally efficient	none	yes, and successfully.
Tewkesbury	14,193	736	17	21	16 Nov. 1835	13 July –	93	2	3	1-43	1-35	quite adequate	more efficient	none	none.

(continued)

Continued.]

NAME OF UNION.	POPULATION.	What is the Total Number of Individuals who have received Medical Relief within the Union since its formation,— specifying the Number of Cases arising from Accident, and the Cases of Midwifery?					Are the present Medical arrangements adopted within the Union adequate or inadequate for the Relief of the Paupers of the several Parishes comprised in it?	What is the comparative efficiency of the Medical Relief now provided, as compared with the Relief administered before the formation of the Union?	Have any complaints of neglect been made to the Guardians from Paupers, or proper objects, whose necessities entitle them to Medical Relief?	Have the Guardians been enabled to take any steps for the formation of Sick Clubs, and if so, what success is likely to attend their efforts?
		Total Number of Paupers attended.			Period of Attendance.					
		Ordinary Cases of Sickness.	Accidents.	Midwifery.	From	To				
Thakeham	7,311	543	23	42	14 May 1835	24 June 1836	perfectly adequate	quite as efficient	- - yes, but of no consequence.	none.
Thame	14,546	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	adequate	equally efficient	none	- - yes, and several clubs have been formed.
Thanet	25,798	473	20	3	20 April 1835	30 Mar. –	ditto	not stated	none	none.
Thetford	16,198	126	5	–	23 Dec. –	20 July –	as adequate	as efficient	none	- - yes, and clubs have been formed.
Thomas, St.	42,155	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Thingoe	16,916	428	25	9	21 Jan. 1836	16 July –	quite adequate	not stated	none	none.
Thornbury	15,422	186	7	2	5 April –	12 – –	ditto	cannot state	none	none.
Thrapston	11,099	399	6	–	25 Mar. –	11 – –	not stated	not stated	none	yes.
Ticehurst	13,347	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	quite adequate	equally efficient	none	yes.
Tisbury	9,763	579	10	2	25 Mar. –	15 – –	adequate	not stated	none	none.
Tiverton	30,622	699	37	4	during 3 months	- -	233	12	1	1–19	1–175	ditto	ditto	none	none.
Torrington	17,348	277	17	2	25 Mar. 1836	16 July –	74	5	1	1–16	1–139	ditto	efficient	none	- - yes, and clubs have been formed.
Towcester	12,142	616	62	5	1 Sept. 1835	12 – –	31	6	–	1–10	1–123	ditto	not stated	- - one, which was found to be groundless.	none.
Uckfield	16,109	2,155	60	129	13 June –	25 Mar. –	229	6	13	1–36	1–17	ditto	ditto	none	none.
Uppingham	11,027	70	–	–	23 April 1836	8 July –	28	–	–	–	–	not stated	not so efficient	none	none.
Upton-on-Severn	15,496	371	7	8	16 Nov. –	24 June –	51	1	1	1–53	1–46	adequate	equally efficient	none	yes.
Wallingford	13,085	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	quite adequate	- ditto	none	none.
Walsingham	16,727	521	1	2	15 May –	13 July –	265	1–2	1	1–521	1–260	not stated	not stated	none	yes.
Wandsworth and Clapham	33,090	144	2	6	25 Mar. –	7 July –	42	1	2	1–72	1–24	- - the new medical arrangements have not yet been brought into action.		none	none.
Wangford	13,058	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	quite adequate	quite efficient	none	none.
Wantage	15,917	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	not stated	as efficient	none	not stated.
Ware	14,654	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Wareham	8,620	171	6	1	25 – –	7 – –	50	2	–	1–28	1–171	quite adequate	quite as efficient	not stated	none.
Warminster	17,150	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	cannot state	cannot state	none	yes.
Watford	15,379	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Wayland	10,643	1,134	38	12	19 Sept. 1835	24 June –	124	4	1	1–30	1–94	quite adequate	more efficient	- yes, which were groundless.	none.
Wellingborough	18,571	406	7	7	during 3 months	- -	135	2	2	1–58	1–58	- ditto	quite as efficient	none	none.
Wellington, Somerset	20,985	138	7	2	during 1 month	- -	138	7	2	1–20	1–69	as adequate	equally efficient	none	- - yes, and some clubs have been formed.
Wellington, Salop	17,945	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	- ditto	more efficient	none	none.
Wells	19,197	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Welwyn	1,970	123	6	1	2 Aug. 1835	25 Mar. –	16	1	–	1–20	1–123	quite adequate	quite efficient	none	none.
Weobly	6,938	78	2	–	1 May 1836	9 July –	34	1	–	1–39	–	- ditto	more efficient	none	- - yes, and some clubs have been formed.
Westbourne	6,585	372	14	20	25 Mar. 1835	28 May –	26	1	1	1–26	1–19	- ditto	- ditto	- yes, which were groundless.	yes.
Westbury-on-Severn	8,760	1,058	20	2	28 Sept. –	24 June –	118	2	–	1–53	1–529	- ditto	- ditto	not stated	none.
Westbury and Whorwelsdown.	13,164	475	4	–	25 Mar. 1836	10 July –	134	1	–	1–119	–	cannot at present state	cannot at present state	ditto	- - yes, which are likely to be successful.

West Firle	2,364	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	very adequate	quite as efficient	none	none.
West Hampnett	15,017	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	quite adequate	more efficient	none	none.
Weymouth	16,947	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	– ditto	– ditto	none	not stated.
Wheatenhurst	7,770	24 –	– –	– 7	weekly – 21 Sept. 1835	weekly – 18 May 1836	105 –	– –	– 1	– –	– 1–3	not acurately stated	not accurately stated	– – yes, which in most instance have proved groundless	none.
Whitchurch	5,175	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	quite adequate	full as efficient	none	none.
Wilton	10,270	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	cannot state	cannot state	none	none.
Willton	18,047	115	6	4	during 1 month –	–	115	6	4	1–19	1–29	– ditto	more efficient	none	yes.
Wimborne	7,933	630	16	12	28 Sept. 1835	6 June –	76	2	1	1–39	1–53	quite adequate	– ditto	none	none.
Wincanton	21,696	883	4	2	30 Dec. –	2 – –	173	1	–	1–221	1–442	– ditto	– ditto	none	none.
Winchcomb	9,715	118	14	–	25 Mar. 1836	9 July –	34	4	–	1–8	–	cannot state	cannot state	none	none.
Winchester	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Windsor	15,986	362	18	7	7 Sept. 1835	20 – –	35	2	1	1–20	1–52	cannot state	as efficient	none	yes, and with success.
Winslow	7,847	1,378	68	7	3 Aug. –	25 Mar. –	178	9	1	1–20	1–197	– – nearly the whole of this Union being under the same medical arrangements as existed prior to its formation.		none	none.
Witham	14,432	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	cannot at present answer the queries.			
Wirrall	17,342	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	– – ditto	– – ditto.		
Woburn	10,633	995	36	8	during 12 months		83	3	1	1–28	1–124	quite adequate	much more efficient	none	– – yes, and one club has been formed.
Wokingham	11,888	840	–	–	during 3 months		280	–	–	–	–	– – adequate in some respects only.	not stated	not stated	none.
Woodbridge	22,163	1,036	27	5	3 Oct. 1835	10 Aug. –	101	2	1	1–38	1–207	more adequate	– ditto	none	– – yes, and some have been formed.
Woodstock	13,219	1,153	386	7	13 July –	9 July –	97	33	1	1–3	1–365	quite adequate	quite efficient	one, which was rectified.	– ditto.
Wycombe	33,947	3,106	152	69	during 12 months		259	13	6	1–20	1–45	– ditto	– ditto	– yes, which were deemed not well founded.	none.
Yeovil	25,581	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	not stated	not stated	none	yes.

SUMMARY.

Of the 296 Unions which have replied to the question, "Are the present medical arrangements adopted within the Union adequate or inadequate for the relief of the paupers of the several parishes comprised in it?" **177**, state that the present medical arrangements have been found to be fully as adequate; five, more adequate; in one* the guardians are of opinion that the present arrangements for affording medical relief are not altogether so adequate; **143** have not answered the question.

Of the 296 Unions which have replied to the question, "What is the comparative efficiency of the medical relief now provided, as compared with the relief administered before the formation of the Union?" **112**, state that the present arrangements for medical relief have been found to be fully as efficient; **61**, more efficient; in one† the medical aid furnished to poor persons under the contract with the medical officers is thought not to be so efficient as it was under the old system, inasmuch as no person can obtain aid without being in an actual state of destitution; **123** have not stated.

Of the 296 Unions which have replied to the question, "Have any complaints been made to the guardians from paupers, or proper objects, whose necessities entitle them to medical relief?" **199** state, that there have not been any complaints against the medical officers; **38** there have been complaints, but the majority have been proved groundless; **59** have not stated.

Of the 296 Unions which have replied to the question, "Have the guardians been enabled to take any steps for the formation of sick clubs, and if so, what success is likely to attend their efforts?" **167** state, that no steps have been taken for the formation of sick clubs; **90**, steps have been taken, and in a great many instances clubs have been established; **39** have not stated.

* Tamworth. † Uppingham.

Appendix (C.)

Medical Relief.

No. 3 c.
Replies to Circular.

— No. 3 c.—

EXTRACTS from COMMUNICATIONS received from the Clerks to the Boards of Guardians in reply to the foregoing Circular (p. 315.)

"THE present arrangements, compared with those adopted before the formation of the Union, are found not only to be altogether more efficient but considerably less expensive. The Guardians also receive from time to time, through the medium of their medical officer, reports of the circumstances and condition of those to whom he is directed to afford medical relief, which in several cases has proved advantageous.

"4 June 1836. *M. T. Irish*, Clerk to the Faversham Union."

"The Board of Guardians beg to assure the Poor Law Commissioners they are perfectly satisfied with the present medical arrangements within the Union, and are satisfied of their greater efficiency, from each medical officer having a district to attend, whereby he is enabled to see his patients much oftener than under the old management he could possibly do. No well-founded cause of complaint has ever been made against either of the medical gentlemen.

"24 July 1836. *Thomas Oakley*, Clerk to the Blandford Union."

"The medical arrangements adopted in this Union have been found hitherto so perfectly adequate to all the relief required, that the same number of medical officers are quite ample for all purposes, since the augmentation of Finchley Parish; nor have the Guardians heard any complaints attributing neglect to those officers, though, anterior to the formation of the Union, occasional complaints were certainly known to arise, and sometimes not without foundation. The Guardians therefore, in drawing a comparison between the efficiency of the medical relief now provided and that formerly administered, must give a decided preference to the present system.

"31 May 1836. *W. N. Franklyn*, Clerk to the Barnet Union."

"The regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners for the management of the sick paupers in the Union, are more satisfactory and efficient than the system under which medical relief was granted previous to its formation. No complaints, but of a frivolous character, have been made against any medical officer; indeed much praise is due to them generally for their great attention.

"12 July 1836. *R. Raper*, Clerk to West Hampnett Union."

"The medical arrangements adopted since the formation of the Union, are perfectly adequate to the wants of the poor. The Board of Guardians also desire to inform you, that the efficiency of the medical relief now provided, is far superior to the relief administered before the formation of the Union, and that no complaints of neglect have ever been made, but, on the contrary, the greatest attention shown by the medical officers.

"6 July 1836. *Edward Rous*, Clerk to the Alresford Union."

"The present arrangements seem to be perfectly adequate, and there is no doubt that the medical relief now provided is much superior, and that the wants of the poor are better attended to now, than before the formation of the Union.

"31 May 1836. *J. Clapton*, Clerk to the Stamford Union."

"The present mode of administering medical relief is most efficient. Every application for medical assistance has been, and still is, promptly complied with, without reference to the settlement or the circumstances of the applicant: except in the latter case (where the means are thought adequate), the person applying is informed by the Relieving Officer that the medical relief afforded is given on loan only, which the Board of Guardians expect will be discharged at the end of the current quarter, or by weekly instalments, as may best suit the particular case. Not one solitary complaint has been made by the patient or by any individual in the Union, of the want of attention or of the efficiency of the late medical officer; on the contrary, the administration of this part of the new Poor Law Amendment Act appears to give universal satisfaction.

"1 June 1836. *T. G. Curteis*, Clerk to the Reading Union."

"Under the old system of granting medical relief, it appears that the overseers have been much imposed upon by the paupers, and they have been in the habit of giving almost unlimited orders for medical relief. The number of medical cases which the medical officers have been called upon to attend is considerably reduced, and many labourers (now independent) who had formerly medical relief, now employ their own medical man, being unwilling to apply for an order.

"6 July 1836. *E. Key*, Clerk to the Holbeach Union."

"No complaints whatever have been made to the Board, and it is their firm belief that the poor are very much better attended now than they ever were previous to the formation of the Union, and also quite as well, if not better, satisfied. The amount paid yearly on an average, previous to the Union, amounted to the sum of 192 *l.* 18 *s.* The total amount of salaries now is 115 *l.*, with an allowance for midwifery cases as before stated.

"28 May 1836. *H. Bishop*, Clerk to Hastings Union."

"The present medical arrangements, as shown from experience during the last year, are very adequate for the medical relief of the paupers of the several parishes comprised in the Union

Union. The Board are of opinion that the medical relief now provided is better than that which was administered prior to the formation of the Union, as there is under the present system a complete check against every medical officer. Not the slightest complaint has been made against either of the medical officers for neglect; on the contrary, they have all given general satisfaction.

"8 July 1836. *B. Wardroper*, jun., Clerk to the Midhurst Union."

"Respecting the efficiency of the medical relief now provided, no complaints have been made by any of the parishes, but it appears that the present mode of administering relief is less liable to imposition than the former, as the attendance is more regular and the cases much better known and investigated, and from the weekly reports of the medical officers, as well as the same of the relieving officers, any omission on either side would soon be detected by the Board of Guardians; of this the medical gentlemen are quite aware.

"7 July 1836. *S. Casey*, Clerk to Guiltcross Union."

"The Board are of opinion the present medical arrangements are equally efficient with those under the old system, and that the labour of the medical officers is materially decreased, inasmuch as formerly a note to the surgeon was generally given without inquiry being first made whether the applicant was a proper object for medical relief; but at the present time particular inquiry is made as to the circumstances of the applicant, and numerous applications rejected in consequence.

"9 July 1836. *John Clarke*, Clerk to the Meriden Union."

"Respecting the efficiency of the medical relief now provided, it appears from the various statements made by the parish Guardians themselves at the Board, to be much superior and less liable to imposition than the former. The relief is much more regularly administered and greater care taken in reporting, as the medical gentlemen know that the least omission on their part would soon be detected and examined by the Board, as the relieving officer's book ought to correspond with medical reports made.

"7 July 1836. *Samuel Casey*, Clerk to Wayland Union."

"The Guardians consider the efficiency of the medical relief now provided as superior to that furnished under the old system before the formation of the Union, inasmuch as the weekly returns of the medical officers contain a statement of the number of visits paid to each pauper, and a notice of their several complaints, with particular observations as to treatment and diet in cases which require especial comment, so that the Board of Guardians have better means of judging of the attention paid to sick paupers than were formerly within the reach of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the respective parishes. Hitherto no complaints of neglect on the part of the medical officers have been made to the Guardians.

"Bourton-on-the-Water,
"27 May 1836. *J. N. Wilkins*, Clerk to the Stow-on-the-Wold Union."

— No. 3 *d.* —

LETTER to *Edwin Chadwick*, Esq., Secretary to the Poor Law Commissioners, from Major-General *M. Marriott*, Chairman of the Pershore Union, Worcestershire.

Sir,

In reference to your circular letter of the 20th May, respecting "Medical Relief," I deem it a subject upon which the Poor Law Commissioners will expect a fuller answer than may be found in the official returns, &c. which will be transmitted by the Clerk to the Board of Guardians.

My attention was drawn to the subject by reading the proceedings of a large meeting held lately in our county city of Worcester. I have not seen the petitions there signed; but the arguments, or rather the *charges*, against the present system of Medical Relief under the Poor Law Amendment Act were briefly held to be as "degrading to the medical profession and injurious to the poor." To substantiate the first charge, it was urged that the mode of "tender to superintend a district was degrading, as putting the intellectual product on a par with beef and mutton," (Dr. Hastings); and the only remedy proposed was, "that the Guardians should *fix* a certain sum, as in the case of hospitals, and then select their medical officers." The gentlemen here forget the great difference between an infirmary or hospital, where the patients are resident within a few minutes' walk of the officers; where attendants, drugs, leeches, bandages, &c. are prepared upon the spot, and merely practical skill or "intellectual product" may be required; whereas in a district of ten or twelve parishes (some scarcely accessible in winter but upon a good hunter), where the wear and tear of conveyance, the providing a supply of medicine and other requisites, are to be estimated for, as well as the bodily capacity to endure severe exercise in all weathers, in addition to the skill or intellectual endowments of the practitioner, it would be unfair to throw the calculation of these requisites upon the Guardians, and add so greatly to their responsibility; for should they fix the sum *too low* they could not obtain for the poor the *best* medical aid they are bound to do; and should it be *too high*, the rate-payers might reasonably complain.

An infirm gentleman, with regular private practice, could not afford to attend a district under 120*l.* or 150*l.* per annum, whilst a more active one, with more leisure and equal ability, would think himself amply repaid by the half of those sums. The Guardians have no *data* to go upon in making such calculations, whilst the individual can make them to a

Appendix (C.)

Medical Relief.

No. 3 *d.*
Letter from Major-Gen. *M. Marriott*, Chairman, Pershore Union.

nicety. Much *private* practice in one district would facilitate his *public* duties in it, and allow him to perform the latter at a cheaper rate. It was also said that *merit* would have a better chance; but here, as in most cases liable to an extensive canvass, merit would have little chance, I fear, against interest.

The arguments to support the second charge of "being injurious to the poor," were, first, That "tenders are liable to be accepted from individuals quite unknown to a neighbourhood, and *whether qualified or not*, might be intruded upon the private practice of a long established practitioner," (Dr. Sheeten); and, secondly, "That by forming several parishes into a district, one person could not pay proper attention to the poor."

In answer to the first, it is sufficient to state, that the *lowest tender* is never accepted, unless upon full proof of the candidate being of unimpeachable *moral* character, as well as skilful in his profession, and having passed a regular course of probation, as shown by his testimonials, diplomas, &c.; and in all the Unions I am acquainted with, the districts have been allotted to medical gentlemen attending the families of the guardians and gentry of the neighbourhood, and therefore cannot be objected to by the poor. Respecting the liability of intrusion upon the *established* practitioner (which I fear has been the ground of much outcry and complaint), it will be enough to say, that, allowing he may have *purchased* the good-will and practice of his predecessor, and thereby gained a contingent (upon his own skill and attention), though not vested, interest in his *private* patients, it can never be asserted, that either the one could sell, or the other purchase, any vested rights in the *pauper* practice of a parish. In reply to the second objection, a reference to the weekly returns will show that the districts are not too large for one person to attend. In one district of this Union, containing *fourteen* parishes, the highest number of patients in any *one week*, since the formation of the Union, has been *nine*, in some weeks *none*, and most frequently from *three to six*. The salary (upon the lowest tender) for this district is 85 *l.* per annum.

In another district, of twelve parishes, the highest weekly number has been *twenty-two*, including many members of the same family in measles and vaccination (against small-pox introduced by a family of Irish paupers). The salary, on the lowest tender, is only 55 *l.*

In the third district, of twelve parishes (containing Pershore with a population of 2,500), the highest number (during measles and vaccination) has been *forty-five*. The salary, or lowest tender, is only 70 *l.* per annum.

Had the Guardians *fixed* salaries upon the data of *numbers of sick* or "intellectual product required," how strangely would the payments have been inverted; but the first-mentioned district is difficult of access, has few private patients, and requires great bodily exertion, especially in winter.

The size of the districts, however, may be varied from time to time, and therefore obviate all objections against the *principle* of the measure.

At the meeting above alluded to, it was stated by Dr. Hastings, "that the medical gentlemen of the Pershore Union (none of whom were present, although one has signed the petition), I understand, *complained loudly* as to the remuneration in cases of *midwifery*, and that something should be allowed in cases of *fracture*." It appears by the weekly returns, that in the 38 parishes the cases of midwifery have only been *nine* since the formation of this Union, and the cases of fracture only *four*.

It is impossible that every case of childbirth should be attended by a surgeon, and it is not desired by the paupers themselves. The difficulty is to know *beforehand* the case in which his attendance is required. The consequence is, that he is seldom sent for until fatal symptoms have approached; and of the above nine cases, *two* have expired within a few hours of the surgeon's visit, whereby he has been at no expense but his journey to the parish, in which, perhaps, he has other patients to visit.

In cases of *fracture*, if they are very serious (happening generally amongst the cartmen of farmers), either the master or overseer obtains a ticket, and sends him off to the General Infirmary. But neither the cases of midwifery or of fracture appear to be of so frequent occurrence as to call forth the *loud* complaints of the medical officers, of which the Board of Guardians have heard nothing.

Having, I trust, completely refuted the only charges I have heard against the present system, I shall proceed briefly to state, as required by your letter, "the comparative efficiency of the Medical Relief now provided, as compared with relief administered before the formation of the Union."

1st. *Under the old system*, as affecting the poor and the medical profession. The overseer for the time being generally contracted with some person to "doctor" the parish on as low terms as he could. In some parishes of this Union, "*nihil*" has been returned as the average (under this head) of the last three years, in many, little more than 20 *s.*; although some parishes, of the same population and acreage, return 15 *l.*, 28 *l.* and one (Eckington) 45 *l.*, as the three years' expenditure for medical assistance.

If a pauper required the doctor, he had to apply to the overseer (not always residing in the parish), who frequently, after promising to inquire into the case, gave an order after the lapse of several days; and then, whether the doctor paid proper attention or not, depended more upon his own humanity than any control of the overseer, who had merely to pay the salary agreed upon at the end of the year, if he had sufficient of the parish funds in his hands, which was frequently not the case, as is proved by the large amount of arrears (in one parish three years) still due.

That the poor will be exposed to worse treatment, or the profession injured (in repute or money) by a change of the old system, it is only necessary to mention, that under it *eleven parishes* of this Union were doctored by a person without any diploma, or other pretension than having been shop-boy to a grocer and druggist for no very long period.

2dly.

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Medical Relief.

No. 3 *d.*
Letter from Major-Gen. *M. Marriott*, Chairman, Pershore Union.

2dly. *Under the new system.* The medical officers are appointed to districts after a strict examination into their *moral* character, as well as skill and experience. They are under the vigilant observation of a Board of Guardians, to whom they report weekly their daily visits to paupers, and attend the Board whenever required. They are under the eye of the guardians, the minister, overseers and churchwardens in every parish, and of the relieving officer of every district; so that if a complaint of inattention or neglect should in any case arise, it can scarcely escape the knowledge of the Board.

A pauper wanting medical assistance for himself or family, has only to apply to *any one* of the above persons in his parish, who are furnished with blank printed forms, which being filled up, may be instantly sent to the medical officer. They are requested, whenever possible, to be delivered early in the morning to enable him to make his arrangements for his daily tour, without having to go twice to the same parish. The paupers can receive their medicine (without losing a day's labour) by the relieving officers, or by the bread contractor, or by some of the paupers found and employed in most parishes, who are unable *wholly* to support themselves (being partly cripples, infirm, &c.) but able to go on errands.

Such are the benefits to the poor; and those to the profession are, that eleven parishes have been rescued from the hands of persons *unauthorized* to practise, and that instead of the uncertain mode of payment under the old system, their salaries are now paid regularly every quarter-day.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Pershore, 31 May 1836. *M. Marriott*, Chairman.

— No. 4. —

CORRESPONDENCE on the subject of the Legal Qualifications of Medical Officers.

1. LETTER from *Robert B. Upton*, Esq., Clerk to the Society of Apothecaries, London.

No. 4.
Qualifications of Medical Officers.

Letter from *R. B. Upton*, Esq.

Gentlemen, Apothecaries' Hall, 30th April 1835.

I AM directed by the Master and Wardens of the Society of Apothecaries respectfully to solicit your attention to a subject which, as being intimately connected with the medical relief of the poor, is one which they conceive you will not deem undeserving of notice.

For the purpose of checking the mischief arising from the ignorance of unqualified practitioners of medicine, and securing to the public, and especially to the lower classes, the benefit of a regularly educated medical attendant, the Legislature, by the 55 Geo. III., c. 194, s. 14 and 20, enacted that no person (who was not then actually in practice) should thenceforth practice as an apothecary, without undergoing the examination and obtaining the certificate of qualification required by the Act.

The effect of this law has been to disperse throughout the kingdom a large body of educated and efficient medical practitioners; but there is still cause for regret that unqualified persons are to be found illegally practising as apothecaries, in many parts of the country. It unfortunately happens too frequently that parish officers confide to individuals of this latter class the medical care of their poor, who are thus deprived of the advantage of a provision calculated peculiarly for their benefit.

It is true, that an unqualified person elected to the office of parish apothecary subjects himself to penalties by discharging its duties; but it is not found, on the one hand, that the dread of a prosecution deters the party from accepting the office, or, on the other, that the knowledge of his being unable to practise legally as an apothecary prevents the overseer from electing him to it.

Under these circumstances, the Master and Wardens feel it their duty to suggest, for your consideration, the propriety of requiring all candidates for the office of apothecary, to parishes or unions, to produce evidence of their being legally qualified to act in that capacity, either by showing that they were in practice on or before the 1st of August, 1815, or by the production of the certificate of the Court of Examiners of this Society; and the Master and Wardens venture to observe, that should the Commissioners think it right to make such a regulation, under the power conferred upon them by the 46th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, they will be adopting the same precaution against the employment of uneducated medical men, as the Legislature has thought fit expressly to provide in the several Acts regulating the treatment of insane persons, and in other instances.

I have the honour to be, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Robert B. Upton*, Clerk to the Society.

2. COMMISSIONERS' Answer to the foregoing LETTER.

Commissioners Answer.

Sir, 7th May 1835.

YOUR letter of the 30th ult. was duly received by the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, who desire to thank the Master and Wardens of the Society of Apothecaries for their suggestions. The Board have now to state that they have avoided interference with the appointment of medical officers in all those parishes which have not been placed in unions or under boards of guardians, and thereby in a more especial manner subjected to the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act. They have relied upon the vigilance of the medical profession to protect the public as well as themselves against the competition of unqualified practitioners, the Commissioners being aware that no persons have so strong a motive as medical men to carry the existing law, which is calculated to be much more effective than any regulations of this Board, into operation. With regard to those parishes and unions which have been placed under the more direct control of the Board, the Com-

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Qualifications of Medical Officers.

missioners have, for similar reasons, declined to narrow the qualification contained in the words of the Poor Law Amendment Act, "duly licensed to practise as a medical man," it having been perfectly competent to the Legislature to have restricted the qualification within narrower limits if it had appeared advisable.

Signed by order of the Board, *E. Chadwick.*
Secretary.

To *Robert B. Upton,* Clerk to the Society of Apothecaries.

3.—LETTER to Lord *John Russell,* Secretary of State, from *Robert B. Upton,* Esq. Clerk to the Society of Apothecaries, London.

Letter from *R. B. Upton,* Esq.

My Lord, Apothecaries' Hall, 18th May 1836.

I AM directed by the Master and Wardens of the Society of Apothecaries of the City of London very respectfully to submit to your Lordship's consideration the following statement, with reference to the qualifications at present required in candidates for the office of medical attendant on parishes or unions under the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Your Lordship is aware that by the 55 Geo. 3, c. 194, no person is permitted to practise as an apothecary in England or Wales, unless he shall have obtained a certificate of qualification from the Court of Examiners of the Society of Apothecaries, who are authorized and required to examine all persons applying to them for the purpose of ascertaining their skill and abilities in the science and practice of medicine, and their fitness and qualification to practise as apothecaries.

The functions of the apothecary consist in attending patients afflicted with diseases requiring medical treatment, and in prescribing and compounding medicines for their cure or relief; and accordingly the course of study enjoined by the Court of Examiners on the candidates for their certificate, and the examination to which they are subjected, are specially directed towards securing a due qualification for the practice of medicine, being that branch of the profession to the exercise of which by far the greater portion of the labours of the general practitioner are devoted.

The attention of the Master and Wardens having been called to the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, which gives to the Commissioners the power of requiring such qualifications in the paid officers elected under the Act as they may think necessary, the Master and Wardens directed the letter of the 30th April 1835 (a copy of which I have the honour to enclose*) to be addressed to the Commissioners.

* See above, p. 465.

In reply, the Master and Wardens received the letter of the 7th May 1835, a copy of which I have also the honour to enclose*.

To these letters I am desired to solicit your Lordship's attention, and also to the following extract from the First Annual Report of the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, in relation to the same subject:—"In regulating the appointments of medical officers within the new unions, we have acted on the presumption that, by the words of the Act (that the medical officer shall be 'a person duly licensed to practise as a medical man,') it was intended to include equally physicians, surgeons or apothecaries, duly licensed to practise as such. Applications have been made to us to prescribe as the qualification of the medical officer of any union, that he should be a member of the College of Surgeons as well as of the Apothecaries' Company; but as at present advised, we do not think that the public interests would be advanced by confining the qualification within narrower limits than those traced by the words of the Act, and which conform to the general practice."

It has been represented to the Society of Apothecaries that, in conformity with the sentiments expressed in these latter documents, the Commissioners have sanctioned the appointment of medical officers who have been legally competent to practise in one branch only of the medical profession; in some instances, apothecaries having been appointed who have not obtained a diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons, and in other instances members of that body who have not been legally qualified to practise medicine.

The Master and Wardens feel it incumbent upon them to bring this subject under your Lordship's notice, and to express their humble opinion, that the Commissioners have, in this instance, deviated from the line of conduct which they had themselves laid down for their guidance, inasmuch as by sanctioning the appointment of medical officers competent to practise one branch only of the profession, they confine the qualification within narrower limits than those traced by the words of the Act, and the public interests, especially those of the parochial poor, are likely to suffer by the construction of the Act which the Commissioners have adopted.

The Master and Wardens very respectfully submit to your Lordship, that the Legislature, by the description of "a person duly licensed to practise as a medical man," could not have meant to include a person duly licensed to practise one branch of the medical profession, but unlicensed, and therefore legally unqualified, for the practice of the other; that an individual, for instance, who is duly licensed only to practise as an apothecary, should, as far as regards the objects of relief under the Poor Law Act, be deemed duly licensed to practise as a surgeon, or that an individual duly licensed only to practise as a surgeon should, as far as the parish poor are concerned, be deemed duly licensed to practise as an apothecary; but that the object of the framers of the Act, in making use of the general expression in question, clearly was to secure to the poor (whom experience had shown to stand in the greatest need of such protection), that guaranty for the competency of their medical attendant, which the law had provided in favour of all classes.

In proof of the fact of the medical attendant on parishes and unions being required to discharge the functions of the apothecary as well as the surgeon, it is only necessary to refer

your

your Lordship to the orders and regulations for Boards of Guardians, and to the prescribed duties of the medical officers published by the Commissioners in the Appendix to their First Annual Report.

The Master and Wardens, in conclusion, venture very respectfully to state, that, from the existing and rapidly increasing numbers of fully qualified practitioners, no inconvenience whatever would result from the Commissioners requiring the candidates for the office of medical attendant on parishes or unions to produce evidence of their being duly licensed to practise as medical men, in the sense in which, the Master and Wardens confidently believe, is was the intention of the Legislature to use the words; and they therefore earnestly implore your Lordship's interference, with a view to secure, in the election of medical officers, a compliance with the express provisions (as they contend) of the Poor Law Amendment Act itself, no less than of the Act for regulating the practice of Apothecaries throughout England and Wales.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Rob. B. Upton, Clerk to the Society.

4.—LETTER of the Poor Law Commissioners upon the preceding Communication.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,
30 May 1836.

My Lord,

Letter of the Poor Law Commissioners.

The Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales have read and carefully considered the letter addressed to your Lordship by the direction of the Master and Wardens of the Society of Apothecaries, and referred by your Lordship to this Board.

The representation, which is stated to have been made to the Society of Apothecaries, that in some instances we may have sanctioned the appointment of medical officers, who, not having obtained a diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons, may be said to be licensed to practise a branch of the profession only, is probably correct.

We have required of the respective Boards of Guardians to appoint, as medical officers, men who are *competent* to the discharge of the necesssary duties, and who are, as the words of the Act require, "duly licensed to practise as medical men."

We know that, in the present state of medical law, many doubts and difficulties may be raised as to the effect of the definition contained in the statute; and the only rule we have laid down for our guidance in sanctioning the appointments made by the Guardians, is this—Provided only that the person appointed is competent to the discharge of the required duties, we will not undertake to pronounce that he is legally disqualified to hold the appointment if he is either a physician, a surgeon or an apothecary.

If we endeavoured to exclude either of these branches of the profession, we should not only exceed the powers vested in us by the Act of Parliament, but should, as it appears to us, confine the qualification within narrower limits than those traced by the Act. As we understand the words of the Act, they are wide enough to comprehend all physicians, surgeons and apothecaries; if we were at liberty to adopt the interpretations suggested by the apothecaries, and to sanction the appointments of such persons only as may have been admitted both by the College of Surgeons and by the Apothecaries' Company, we should, in our view, be acting on the narrowest possible interpretation which the Act was capable of receiving: for we should at once wholly and absolutely shut out all physicians, and also all surgeons who may not be apothecaries, and all apothecaries who may not also be surgeons.

With respect to the proposed exclusion of physicians, it has from the first appeared to us to be altogether aside from our duty to assert that they are to be disqualified on the ground of their not being duly licensed to practise as medical men, which by adopting the suggestions of the apothecaries, we must necessarily do.

A case occurred in which a well-educated young man, who had a diploma to practise as a physician, was desirous of being appointed a medical officer, it was urged as an objection that, though qualified to prescribe, he could not administer medicine, inasmuch as he was not an apothecary.

This anomaly in medical law it was not for us to deal with, but the mode by which the difficulty could be set aside was stated to be this:—

The physician might lawfully give a prescription, which could be made up at a druggist's, and in this mode the medicines prescribed by the physician administered to a sick pauper with as little inconvenience as if the physician had himself been a compounder of medicine. Your Lordship cannot fail to observe that we are exposed to conflicting difficulties by the different parties who advocate the cause and espouse the interests of the medical profession. We are censured for having enlarged the size of the districts in which the medical men have been heretofore accustomed to practise, and thus diminished the number of persons employed; we are constantly urged to make the districts smaller and more numerous; at the same time we are urged to diminish, as much as possible, the number of those to whom the qualification in the Act is to be held to apply. To increase the demand for medical officers, while we reduced the number of those capable of taking the office within the narrowest possible limits, would, no doubt, produce the effect which invariably results from such proceedings; but we think it would hardly enable us to obtain the necessary medical relief to the poor at such a cost as it is fair and reasonable to pay for it; and we repeat to your Lordship, that we have never sought to obtain it at the lowest cost to which competition might possibly reduce it.

Under these circumstances, therefore, we think it our duty to state to your Lordship our belief, that, as the law has declared all persons to be eligible as medical officers who are licensed to practise medicine, we have no power to exclude physicians and surgeons, who,

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Letter of the Poor Law Commissioners.

if elected, may be competent to the discharge of the duty; and further, that if we had unwisely been entrusted with such a discretionary power, it could not have failed to be injurious to the public service if we had ventured to act upon it.

We have, &c. *T. Frankland Lewis.*
J. G. S. Lefevre.
Geo. Nicholls.

To the Right honourable
Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

— No. 5. —

CORRESPONDENCE on the Arrangements under the Commission for providing Medical Relief.

1.—LETTER from *S. M. Phillipps*, Esq., Under Secretary for the Home Department, to the Poor Law Commissioners.

No. 5.
Arrangements for providing Medical Relief.

Gentlemen, Whitehall, June 29th 1836.

I AM directed by Lord John Russell to transmit to you for your consideration the enclosed Memorial of the Medical Association of Dorsetshire, and to desire that the same may be returned to this Department.

I am, &c. *S. M. Phillipps.*

2.—COPY of MEMORIAL enclosed in the above LETTER.

TO the Right hon. Lord *John Russell*, Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The MEMORIAL of the Members of the Medical Association of Dorsetshire;

Most respectfully Sheweth,

Memorial of Medical Association of Dorsetshire.

1st. THAT we deprecate the attack on the character of the Medical Practitioners of England and Wales, contained in the 25th section of the First Annual Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, and particularly the allegation of their collusion with the Overseers, for the purpose of exorbitant charges, as having been founded upon partial evidence; nor can we too strongly express our indignation that the reprehensible conduct of a few of its members should be made the occasion of so sweeping and undeserved a charge against a profession, distinguished for its humane exertions, and for its gratuitous services.

2d. That in consideration of the liberal and scientific education required by law of medical practitioners, and of the highly important duties that devolve upon them, we denounce the application of any principles that assimilate us to the grade of tradesmen or artisans.

3d. That we consequently protest against the principle of tender for attendance on the sick, on the following grounds:—First, Because it is degrading to us as professional men. Secondly, Because it is injurious, inasmuch as it depreciates the value of knowledge, by indiscriminately placing the experienced and the inexperienced on the same level. Thirdly, Because we believe that in consequence of inadequate remuneration, the duties of medical practitioners are often imperfectly fulfilled. Lastly, Because in no other liberal profession is the system of tender resorted to, and we consider it unjust that it should be solely applied to the medical profession.

We, the undersigned, the Committee of the above-named Association, take the liberty of most respectfully entreating your Lordship to cause this important subject to be duly considered, so that a remuneration for such important services may be fixed on just and equitable principles.

John Carnegie, M. D., Extra Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of London, Blandford Forum.
J. S. Daniell, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, &c.
Thomas William Wake Smart, M.R.C.S., Cranbourne.
Edward Spooner, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, &c., Blandford.
John Reynolds Rowe, M.R.C.S., Wimborne.

Wimborne, Dorsetshire,
15th June 1836.

3.—LETTER of the Poor Law Commissioners to Lord *John Russell*, in reference to the preceding Memorial.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,
1 July 1836.

My Lord,

Commissioners' Letter in reference to preceding Memorial.

WE have had under our consideration the Memorial from the Medical Association of Dorsetshire, which, by your Lordship's direction, has been transmitted to us in Mr. Phillipps's letter of the 29th ult., and is now returned; and with respect to the protest therein contained against the principle of "tender for attendance on the Sick Poor," we think it our duty to repeat the explanation we have so frequently given, that the Boards of Guardians are not called upon to accept the lowest tender which may be made for the supply of medical relief; but, on the contrary, that they are always urged to employ an individual who possesses the qualification pointed out in the statute, and who is also fully competent to the discharge of his duties. They are also instructed to give an adequate, though not an extravagant, payment for the services required. The statement that, in consequence of inadequate remuneration, the duties of medical practitioners have often been imperfectly fulfilled, has frequently been made, though, as in this instance, without an evidence or proof of the fact.

We

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No. 5.
Commissioners' Letter in reference to preceding Memorial.

We have therefore thought it our duty to institute inquiries on our own part, and have requested the Board of Guardians to communicate to us detailed information as to the effects of the medical arrangements in their respective Unions. The Assistant Commisioners have also received instructions to make similar inquiries in the districts in which they have been occupied. The result of these inquiries has been to convince us that the medical duties have not been imperfectly fulfilled. On the contrary, we have been assured that, as compared with the system which prevailed before the Poor Law Amendment Act came into operation, the medical relief to persons actually paupers has been much more efficient than before; and if any instance was known to us in which the arrangements for medical relief were insufficient, or the payment of the medical officer not equal to his services, we should, without delay, apply ourselves to the investigation of the statement, with the view to the application of such remedy as might appear to be required.

We think it also our duty to notice the statement that, by the application of the principle of tender, the medical practitioners are assimilated to the grade of tradesmen or artisans, and we are desirous of assuring your Lordship that the mode in which the principle of competition should be brought to bear on the medical profession has never been other than duly considered by us; the tender which the Board of Guardians seek for is, practically, no more than an expression on the part of the person offering it of his being willing to undertake the duty, and of the sum which he asks for a remuneration for his services.

If the Board of Guardians had been required to accept the lowest tender, then the complaint of the medical men might be said to have some foundation to rest upon. But as it is publicly and generally known that the Guardians are not required to do so, and as they have practically, in very many instances, been known not to do so, and as we have very frequently sanctioned higher salary than the lowest which was offered, it is perfectly clear that the principle of competition, in the strict mercantile sense, has not been applied to a profession in which the skill and knowledge of the persons professing and practising it is so far the most valuable part of the product which they offer to their employers.

We have the honour to be, &c.

Thomas Frankland Lewis.
J. G. S. Lefevre.

To the Right Honourable
Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

—No. 6.—

PAPERS on the subject of a Statement in the House of Commons relative to certain Paupers of the Unions of *Stow* and *Ongar*.

No. 6.
Papers relative to a Statement in the House of Commons.

No. i.—REPORT from Dr. *Kay*, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, to the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales; with Four Enclosures.

(No. i.)
Report of Dr. *Kay*.

Stow Union Workhouse, near Stow Market,
29 July 1836.

Gentlemen,

Having this morning accidentally read Mr. Wakley's statement in the House of Commons, relative to the Stow Union, I drove over to Stow Market.

I find the Board of Guardians deny the allegations, which, as you will perceive, are not consistent with the facts of the case.

The Board of Guardians are preparing a Memorial to Lord John Russell on the subject, denying the alleged facts, and calling for the disclosure of the name of the informant.

I append evidence from—

Married Paupers in Stow Union Workhouse.

1. The Governor of the Stow Union Workhouse.
2. The only two Married Paupers in the house.
3. From the Relieving Officer of one of the districts of the Union. And also,
4. An extract from the Minutes of the Board.

From these documents it will appear to you that the following facts are demonstrated:—

1. That only two married couples reside in the Stow Market workhouse.
2. That all others have been dismissed upon out-allowance.
3. That these parties would have been dismissed upon out-allowance, if the illness of their wives had not rendered this impossible.
4. That they are separated from their wives only on account of the necessity which exists for the residence of their wives in the infirmary.
5. That they are allowed to visit their wives (being aged people) as often as ever they desire.
6. That they avail themselves of this permission daily, and are abundantly contented with the arrangement.
7. The case which was said to be refused out-door relief on account of another surgeon having been called in, because the Union surgeon neglected the case, is stated to be an entire and pure fabrication, so far as the Stow Market division is concerned.

Colonel Audebrooke was in Stow Market yesterday, and he received from nine or ten of the Guardians the most positive denial of the charges. He has in consequence written to Sir Charles Vere to inform him that the statement is not consistent with the facts.

To the Poor Law Commissioners.

I have the honour to be, &c.

J. P. Kay.

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No. 6.
Papers relative to a Statement in the House of Commons.

Enclosure, No. 1.
Evidence of Governor of Workhouse.

(Enclosure, No. 1.)—Evidence of the Governor of *Stow Market* Workhouse.

I, *Henry Vince*, am governor of the Stow Market Workhouse. There are only two married paupers in the house; viz. Jonathan Frost and his wife Ann, William Grimwood and his wife Ann.

Ann Frost had a fit six weeks ago, after which she lost her speech. Her strength was much affected, and she is now confined to her bed, evidently from something like a paralytic affection. In consequence of this she is in the infirmary. It would not be possible that her husband should be in the infirmary with the rest of the women, so as to remain with her day and night; but he is permitted to visit her as often as he requests, and he generally spends an hour with her every day. He is 70 years of age, and she is likewise 75.

Jonathan Frost and his wife appear perfectly and in every respect contented with this arrangement, and he said to the Board of Guardians that he was quite satisfied with being permitted to go to see his wife in the infirmary from time to time.

William Grimwood is 65 years of age, and his wife 68 years of age. His wife has been confined to bed in the infirmary at least six months, with a rheumatic affection; she suffers exceedingly from her complaint, is quite unable to get out of bed, and could not be removed from the infirmary.

Her husband could not be with her in the infirmary day and night, because there are several other women in the ward, but he is allowed to visit her whenever he asks permission to do so, which he usually does three or four times in the week, remaining with her an hour or so each time.

William Grimwood is not blind, and is a pretty capable man for his years.

He is quite contented with this arrangement, and he has not asked for any change.

The aged people are well satisfied with the arrangements in the house.

As witness my hand, this 29th day of July 1836.

(signed) *Henry Vince.*

Enclosure, No. 2.
Evidence of the Two Paupers.

(Enclosure, No. 2.)—Evidence of the Two Paupers.

I, *Jonathan Frost*, am living in the Stow Market Workhouse. My wife is very ill, and is in the infirmary; she is obliged to be there because she is so badly. I remember when you, Dr. Kay, were here, you told me before the Board of Guardians that I might see my wife as often as I liked, three or four times a day if I liked, or oftener. Those are the words that you used; I took it as very kind; I am much obliged to you. Seeing that she is sick and that I cannot be with her altogether, I am quite easy as I am; I could not wish for more; I go every day to see her; sometimes I stay an hour or two, sometimes a little while, but always every day. She cannot speak so as I can understand her, and I doubt she won't get better; I don't expect it.

(signed) *Jonathan* his + mark. *Frost.*

In the presence of Joseph Antrum Webb, Guardian of Court, this evidence was faithfully read to Frost, and he appended his mark thereto.

(signed, as witness) *Jas. A. Webb.*

I, *William Grimwood*, am living in the Stow Market Workhouse. My wife is confined to the infirmary by severe illness; she is not able to get out of bed; she has been confined in this way half-a-year at least.

I am permitted to go to see my wife whenever I ask to do so.

(signed) *William Grimwood.*

Signed in the presence of *Jas. A. Webb.*

(Enclosure, No. 3.)—Extract from Minutes of the Board of Guardians, with some preliminary Explanations and confirmatory Evidence.

Enclosure, No. 3.

On the day when the classification of the inmates of the Stow Union Workhouse took place, the following Resolutions were entered in the Minutes, relative to the discharge from the house, upon "*out-allowance*," of all the remaining aged married couples in the house.

The able-bodied married men had long before been discharged upon "*out-allowance.*"

Extract from the Minutes of the Board of Guardians of the *Stow* Union.

Minutes of Board of Guardians.

Resolved:—"That Samuel Burman, his wife, and one child, of Great Finborough, be discharged from the house, upon an allowance of 2 *s.* and one stone and a half of flour per week.

"That Thomas Fuller and his wife, of Stow Market, be also discharged, upon an allowance of a stone of flour and 2 *s.* per week.

"That Robert Purr and his wife, of Buxhall, be also discharged, with an allowance of a stone of flour and 2 *s.* per week."

Evidence.

I, *Henry Vince*, (governor) have read the above statement, and I hereby declare that it is in every respect correct. These old couples were allowed to remain in the house, living together, until they could procure comfortable lodgings, which they succeeded in doing in a few days.

As witness my hand, this 29th day of July 1836.

Henry Vince.

(Enclosure

(Enclosure, No. 4.)—Evidence of *C. B. Law*, Relieving Officer of *Stow Market*, District of *Stow* Union.

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No. 6. Papers relative to a Statement in the House of Commons.

Evidence of Relieving Officer.

I, *Charles Blomfield Law*, have read the above statement, and declare that it is correct. I have seen the aged couples discharged from the house, and they are quite contented with their allowance, but one of the women (Burman) prefers a lodging in the house to what she can get abroad.

As witness, &c. *Charles B. Law.*

I, *Charles Blomfield Law*, am Relieving Officer of the Stow Market District of the Stow Union. I have heard of a statement made to the House of Commons concerning an aged woman by whom it was said that relief had been refused, because, after having been neglected by the surgeon of the Union, she had obtained another medical attendant, and had refused to permit the surgeon of the Union to attend. I read this statement in the paper with care; I have no hesitation in saying that no such circumstance has ever occurred in my district, nor any thing in any respect similar; such an occurrence would be quite contrary to the whole of the proceedings of the Board of Guardians; and I am perfectly convinced that I personally could never permit any such circumstance to occur. I have at this moment cases receiving relief in which the parties employ their own surgeons, and such cases are not rare. The Board of Guardians sometimes require a certificate of illness, but that is all; and I have frequently satisfied myself and the Board by calling on the surgeon whom the applicants employ, and hearing his statement of the case, whether he is a medical officer of the Union or not.

I should be very happy to meet the person who made this charge in the House of Commons; I am sure he could not substantiate his statement before me; it is not true.

As witness my hand, &c. *Charles B. Law.*

No. ii.—FURTHER REPORT from *James Phillips Kay*, Esq., M.D., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner; with Four Enclosures.

Barham Workhouse, Bosmere and Claydon Union,
3 August 1836.

No. ii. Further Report Dr. *Kay*.

Gentlemen,

Perceiving in "The Times" of this morning that the charge made against the Stow Union has been transferred to the Bosmere and Claydon Union, I travelled from Ipswich to this Workhouse to examine the facts.

Bosmere and Claydon Union.

On my way hither I met Sir William Fowle Middleton, the chairman of the Bosmere and Claydon Union.

He informed me that he yesterday received a letter from Sir Charles Vere, inquiring whether an old decrepit and blind man in bad health had not been separated from his wife in this house until an order could be procured from the Commissioners that they should be permitted to remain together.

Sir William Middleton immediately attended the Board of Guardians, and they have forwarded to Sir Charles Vere an unequivocal and direct denial of the whole charge, signed by 21 Guardians. I came on to the workhouse, and I have here examined the pauper, the governor, matron and the porter.

The facts thus declared are as follows:—The Bosmere and Claydon Union was formed in August or September 1835; since that period no classification took place in the Union workhouse until the month of May 1836. On the day when the paupers were classified I attended, and by my directions the Board of Guardians proceeded to dismiss one aged couple from the workhouse upon a sufficient weekly out-door allowance.

The only other aged couple was Edward Death and his wife, and I directed that they should be sent to a building outside the workhouse, which was formerly used as a sick-house and still retains that name. They (Edward Death and his wife) there lived together in perfect contentment as man and wife, just as if they were in their own cottage, and they have just as much liberty. When this was reported to you, you immediately confirmed my order, made as Assistant Commissioner of Poor Laws in this district.

The facts, therefore, are as follows:—

1. Edward Death is blind, but not aged, i.e. he is 56 years of age. He is in good health, and declares he could earn his living by shoemaking if he could see.
2. He never has been separated from his wife.
3. I, as Assistant Commissioner of the district, ordered that he should be permitted to live with his wife in a comfortable building outside of the workhouse, where he has as much liberty and is quite as contented as if he were in his own cottage.
4. The Guardians permitted another aged couple to go out of the house upon out-door allowance at the period of the classification.
5. Whatever change has been made in the condition of Death, was made by order of the Assistant Commissioner of the district, and readily consented to by the Board of Guardians; and Edward Death says this change has been in every respect for his advantage.

I also append some Resolutions adopted a short time ago, unanimously, by the Board of Guardians of this Union, and expressive of their conviction of the salutary effects flowing from the administration of the law.

I have the honour to be, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *J. P. Kay.*

Appendix (C.)

No. 6.
Papers relative to a Statement in the House of Commons.

(Enclosure, No. 1.)—Deposition of *Edward Death*, a Pauper, chargeable to *Bosmere* and *Claydon* Union.

Enclosure, No. 1. Deposition of Pauper.

I, *Edward Death*, am 56 years of age; I am blind; I cannot see any object; I can only distinguish the difference between day-light and darkness; I have been blind 15 years, 13 years of which I have spent in this house, when it was under the old Board; I am in pretty good health; I have not ailed anything lately, excepting being shiftless because I am blind; if I had my sight I could earn my living by making shoes; I am weaker than when I was first blind, but I was a strong man then.

My wife is 56 years of age; I have three children; two of them are in America, and one is in service at Bailham Hall.

I never have been separated from my wife for a day nor for a night. When the poor people in the house were put into their wards, you, Dr. Kay, were here, and the governor came and told me it was ordered that I should live with my wife in what used to be the sick-house; I was very glad of that; the sick-house has no wall round it; now I am there I can get abroad into the fields, and I go out and take the sun and air whenever I like; I am not at all confined; I do just as I like, as much as if I were in my own cottage.

My wife is not so strong as I am, but she is very useful in attending me; she takes great care of me; and I think the gentlemen and you, Dr. Kay, acted very kindly to me, and I return you many thanks.

I am much better off now than I was before under the old Board, because the children do not plague me now; there is no noise where I am; and I can get the sun and air so nicely.

his
Edward × *Death.*
mark.

Signed in the presence of John Mayhew, Porter of the Workhouse.

I, *John Mayhew*, heard this deposition read to Edward Death, and I guided his hand in making the above mark to show his assent to every thing herein contained.

(signed) *John Mayhew.*

(Enclosure, No. 2.)—Deposition of *Ann Sutton*, Matron, and *John Mayhew*, Porter, of Barham Workhouse, Bosmere and Claydon Union.

Enclosure, No. 2. Evidence of Matron and Porter of Workhouse.

I, *Ann Sutton*, matron of the Barham Workhouse, and I, *John Mayhew*, porter, hereby declare, that Edward Death is the only blind man in this house who is married. He has never been separated from his wife by order of the Board of Guardians or Commissioners or otherwise. Death is in a very good state of health, and is a man of average strength. He now lives in the sick-house, where he has perfect liberty, and his wife is with him to attend him. We know that this arrangement was ordered by you, Dr. Kay, at the time of the classification.

He could not be better off if he were in his own cottage.

At the time of the classification an old man and his wife, of the name of Hall, were sent out with a weekly allowance; and the only reason Death and his wife were not sent also to their own cottage was because his blindness made him more shiftless.

As witness our hands, &c. (signed) *Ann Sutton.* *John Mayhew.*

(Enclosure, No. 3.)—Letter from *John Sutton*, Governor of Barham Workhouse, to Dr. *Kay*, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Enclosure, No. 3. Letter of Master of Workhouse.

Sir, Barham Workhouse, near Ipswich, Suffolk.

I beg to inform you, that we have only one blind person in our workhouse, with a wife; they are 55 years of age; neither of them have ever been on a bed of sickness since their admission into the house, nor have they ever been separated, but always lived and slept together. It is the case, when you effected the classification, that was made an exception, and ordered by you, in conjunction with the Board of Guardians, that they should be placed in a building a short distance from the house, where they have been ever since, and are much more comfortable than before this arrangement, inasmuch as they have a comfortable sleeping and sitting room to themselves, together with the liberty of walking out when they please; they have frequently expressed themselves as much pleased with the change.

3 August 1836. I am, &c. *John Sutton*, Governor.

(Enclosure, No. 4.)—Resolutions passed by the Board of Guardians of the *Bosmere* and *Claydon* Union.

Enclosure, No. 4. Resolution of the Board of Guardians.

Resolved, That the Board of Guardians of the Bosmere and Claydon Union are unanimously of opinion, that a remarkable change has taken place in the character of the pauperized labourers in this Union since the introduction of the measures of the Poor Law Commissioners. Those who were idle are now anxious to procure employment, and when employed are industrious and respectful. The profligate and disorderly have, to a great extent, refrained from their vicious courses, and a great part of the money saved is evidently rescued from the beer-shop and the tavern.

The Board is moreover of opinion that though there has been a temporary pressure on some of the vicious and idle who had been accustomed to depend on the poor-rates, the condition of the mass of the labourers has been improved by their being better employed.

The Board have therefore the most unqualified satisfaction in persevering in their efforts to dispauperize the poorer classes, feeling that they will thus materially promote their domestic and social comfort, and improve their moral condition.

Appendix (C.)

No. 6.
Papers relative to a Statement in the House of Commons.

No. iii.
Report of Dr. *Kay*.

Case of *Francis*, a Pauper.

No. iii.—REPORT of *J. P. Kay*, Esq., M.D., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, on the Case of a Pauper named *Francis*, of Wetherden, in the Stow Union.

Parish of Wetherden, near Stow-Market,
3 August 1836.

Gentlemen,

The case of the woman, Francis, of the parish of Wetherden, which was represented to the House of Commons as a case of peculiar hardship, turns out to be equally absurd with the Bosmere cases.

It was said this woman's relief was cut off because she refused to be attended by the surgeon of the Union in consequence of his neglect, and that she was starved into submission. The evidence which I forward utterly contradicts this statement.

The relief was discontinued because the earnings of the family (not including those of a married son, who lived under the same roof,) were 24*s.* per week. The Board of Guardians did not know Mr. Bedingfield had been called in. Mr. Bree, the Union surgeon, continued his attendance after Mr. Bedingfield had been called in; the husband and daughter were not dissatisfied with Mr. Bree's attendance. The daughter has recently put down Mr. Bree's name as their medical attendant in the Medical Club of the district, and the husband says that he is satisfied with this having been done.

Mr. Harrison, the Guardian of the parish, says he was present at the board when the case was brought before it; that the sole subject of consideration in disallowing the relief was the amount of the earnings; that Mr. Harrison *never gave any order* in the case.

The woman was attended to the satisfaction of the family by Mr. Bree, both before and after the formation of the Union. The parish of Wetherden was brought under the attention of the board immediately after the formation of the Union, and the relief was immediately disallowed.

Mr. Bree still continued to attend after this disallowance.

To the Poor Law Commissioners
for England and Wales.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. P. Kay.*

(Enclosure, No. 1.)—The Examination of *Charlotte Francis*, of Wetherden, in the County of Suffolk, Single Woman, taken the 3d day of August 1836:—

Enclosure, No. 1.
Examination of the Daughter of the Pauper in question.

Who saith, I am 26 years of age; I am the daughter of Dinah, the wife of John Francis, of Wetherden, Suffolk, labourer. About this time last year my mother became so ill as to require the attendance of Mr. Bree, who attended the parish of Wetherden at that time for the old incorporated hundred. Mr. Bree was very diligent all the time in his attendance and attention to my mother; there was no cause of complaint at all. My mother did not get better, but worse, and the nurse who came occasionally to assist me having strongly recommended Mr. Bedingfield's attendance, Mr. Bedingfield was applied to, to attend my mother. Before the new Union was formed, we received 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a week, and as soon as the new Union commenced, which was in the month of October 1835, that allowance was discontinued. The only reason I ever heard for that was, that my father's and brother's earnings together amounted to 24*s.* a week. I am positively sure that Mr. Bedingfield's attendance had nothing whatever to do with the discontinuance of that allowance. I applied myself to the Union, but was told there was so much earnings, there was no relief required. I was never told myself by any Guardian, and I never heard my father mention that he had been told that such allowance was discontinued in consequence of Mr. Bedingfield being employed to see my mother. I am quite sure that no complaint was ever made to the Board of Guardians, and I verily believe that the Board of Guardians never knew of Mr. Bedingfield's attending my mother.

That during Mr. Bedingfield's attendance on my mother, Mr. Bree was also in attendance, and although he had stated that he believed my mother would never be any better, he always said that he would come at any time my mother wished to send for him, by night or by day, and this he repeated to me many times, and he always did come as soon as he was sent for.

And this examinant further saith, that in fact Mr. Bedingfield's attendance upon my mother, as before stated, was before the Union was formed.

My father and myself were quite satisfied with Mr. Bree, but we yielded to my mother's wishes to see Mr. Bedingfield; neither my father nor myself wished for Mr. Bedingfield's attendance, but we yielded to my mother's desire.

My mother died on the 20th of March last.

Mr. John Harrison, the Guardian for the parish of Wetherden, has been always ready to receive any complaint we had to make; and if we had made any complaint, it would have been through Mr. Harrison to the Board of Guardians.

mark
The × *Charlotte Francis.*
of

This Examination was taken the day and year above written, by me,

James Phillips Kay, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

(Enclosure, No. 2.)—Examination of the Guardian of the Parish of *Wetherden*, *Stow* Union.

Enclosure, No. 2.
Examination of the Guardian of the Parish.

The Examination of *John Harrison*, at Wetherden, in the County of Suffolk, Farmer, taken the 3d day of August 1836:—

Who saith, I have been the Guardian for the Parish of Wetherden, in the Union of Stow, ever since its formation. I was well acquainted with Dinah, the wife of John Francis, before her

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No. 6.
Papers relative to a Statement in the House of Commons.
No. iii.
Report of Dr. *Kay*;

her death, and before the commencement of the Union; John Francis was receiving 1*s.* 6*d.* a week from the Directors and Guardians of the Hundred of Stow, but upon the inquiries made under the Union, it appeared that the earnings of the husband and family amounted to so much that they were not considered objects of parochial relief. The case was brought under the consideration of the Board twice, and in both instances was considered as not requiring the relief of the parish.

I solemnly declare that no reference whatever was made in the alteration of allowance by the Board to the attendance of Mr. Bedingfield, but that such allowance was taken off solely in consequence of the earnings of the family; in fact the Board of Guardians never knew of the attendance of Mr. Bedingfield, and I myself never interfered in that respect in any manner whatever.

John Harrison.

This Examination was taken by me,
James Phillips Kay, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

(Enclosure, No. 3.)—The Examination of *John Francis*, of Wetherden, in the County of Suffolk, Labourer, taken the 3d day of August 1836:—

Enclosure, No. 3.
Examination of the Husband of the Pauper.

Who saith, I have heard the examination of my daughter Charlotte Francis carefully read over to me; that is all true to the best of my knowledge. Mr. Bedingfield's attendance upon my wife had nothing whatever to do with my allowance of 1*s.* 6*d.* a week being taken off.

I was perfectly satisfied with Mr. Bree's attendance myself, but my wife wished very much to see Mr. Bedingfield; and Mr. Bree attended also at the same time, not knowing of Mr. Bedingfield's attendance.

My wife was, however, in a great deal of pain, and was at times impatient for the attendance of her doctor.

My daughter has put my name down as belonging to a Medical Club for Stow Union, and has named Mr. Bree as the doctor to attend my family; but although I have no objection to Mr. Bree, I should, as Mr. Bedingfield attended my wife for nothing, if I had put my own name down, have named Mr. Bedingfield as the doctor.

mark
The × *John Francis.*
of

No. iv.—LETTER from *W. Baker*, Esq., Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the *Ongar* Union, to the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales.

Gentlemen, Chipping Ongar, August 2, 1836.

No. iv.
Letter from *W. Baker*, Esq., Clerk to the Ongar Union.

I am directed by the Board of Guardians to apprise you, that the observations stated to have been made by Mr. Wakley, M. P., in the House of Commons on the first day of August instant, relative to James Staines, a pauper belonging to Chipping Ongar, have come under the notice of the Board, and that in reference thereto they have directed me to state for your information, that whilst the pauper was under the care of the medical officer appointed for the district in which the pauper resided, a weekly sum was allowed by the Board as out-relief to the pauper and his family; but in consequence of the pauper having refused to continue under the care of such medical officer, and having placed himself under the care of another medical gentleman (who had attended him previous to the appointment of such medical officer), the Board at their weekly meeting held on the 19th July last, considered that any further out-relief could not be lawfully given to the pauper, and resolved to discontinue such, but at the same time offered the pauper and his family admission into the workhouse, in which the pauper would necessarily have been under the care of the medical officer of the above district, who having been present at such meeting stated his opinion that the pauper might be safely removed into the workhouse; but notwithstanding a post-chaise was a few days afterwards hired for the purpose of conveying him thither, the pauper declined leaving his home.

Application was made to the Board of Guardians at the following weekly meeting, held on the 26th July last, on behalf of the pauper, for relief out of the workhouse, which the Board again, for the reason before stated, refused; the Board, however, again offered the pauper and his family admission into the workhouse, which they still declined.

I have, &c. *W. Baker*, Clerk of the Union.

—No. 7.—

No. 7.
Correspondence on the Powers of Magistrates.

Correspondence on the Power of Magistrates under the 27th Section of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

(A.)—Letter from *W. Sutcliffe*, Esq., to *R. Weale*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner,

Letter from *W. Sutcliffe*, Esq

Dear Sir,

According to the arrangement made when you did the Bath City Magistrates the favour of meeting them at the Guildhall on Wednesday last, I now forward in writing the leading points on which we require information for our guidance. Feeling that the City Magistrates have not power to guide the operation of the new Poor Law to any great extent.

I feel

I feel also not the slightest disposition to thwart those principally entrusted with its execution, except so far as my views of actual duty in extreme cases may require. In the annexed Queries, I have omitted all allusion to the particular circumstance which has placed the City Magistrates and the Bath Union Guardians in seeming opposition; because the merits of that case in fact turn on the respective credibility of two witnesses. Such difficulties will inevitably occur, if the City Magistrates are not enabled to hear both sides before they adjudicate. To prevent misunderstanding respecting the views which may be supposed to influence my conduct, I beg to say that I am a decided supporter of the new system, so far as the healthy able-bodied poor are concerned; though I greatly fear that in this City it will be found to press with needless severity on the aged and infirm.

Belmont, Bath, 8 July 1836. I have, &c. *William Sutcliffe.*

(Enclosure with the above Letter.)

Questions submitted by the Bath Magistrates.

Differences of opinion existing respecting the meaning and operation of the *twenty-seventh* Section of the new Poor Law Act (4 & 5 Will. IV. c. 76), the undersigned requests (by the advice of Mr. Weale, the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner) the opinion of the Poor Law Commissioners on the following points:—

1. To what person is the Magistrate's order to be directed; and more particularly is not the churchwarden or overseer, at least *one* proper person, under the sixth head of the "Duties of Churchwardens and Overseers," as laid down in an order addressed to the Bath Union under date 12th February 1836?

2. Supposing an order to be made by the Magistrates in conformity with the provisions of the 27th Section, and in a case falling within its scope, can the Guardians substantially refuse compliance by granting merely nominal relief; such for instance as a penny weekly?

3. Is it in *point of law necessary* (for it is of course admitted that courtesy towards the Guardians is desirable) that an application on the part of the pauper to the Guardians, and an order from the Guardians for admission into the workhouse, should precede the Justice's order for out-door relief?

4. Does the Justice's power under this 27th Section extend to cases of complete inability to work, in consequence of a fever or other *temporary* infirmity, so long as it shall last?

5. How is the order of two Justices, under this 27th Section, to be enforced in case of disobedience?

The opinion of the Commissioners is also requested on the two following points, though not arising out of the 27th Section:

6. Is it the intention of the Commissioners, that children at the breast shall be separated from their mothers when in the poor-house?

7. Is it intended to grant relief from the poor-rates for burial, in cases of complete destitution?

The undersigned submits these questions to the Poor Law Commissioners, with the understanding that any answer which may be received through Mr. Weale, will be communicated both to the writer and to the Guardians of the Bath Union.

Guildhall, Bath,
8 July 1836. *William Sutcliffe,*
Magistrate for the City of Bath.

(B.)—Report on an Interview between Mr. *Weale* and the Magistrates of the City of *Bath*, on the Construction of the 27th Clause of the Poor Law Amendment Act, &c., and on certain Queries arising thereout.

Report of *R. Weale*, Esq., on the above Queries.

1. The Magistrates of the City of Bath and the Board of Guardians have been in one or two cases in collision, and especially in one case, where they issued an Order under the 27th Section of the Poor Law Amendment Act to the Overseers of the Parish of Walcot in the Bath Union, to give relief out of the workhouse to a pauper certainly not coming within the provisions of that Section. The Board of Guardians passed a resolution to that effect at my recommendation, a copy of which was directed to be forwarded to the City Magistrates, upon which the Mayor addressed a letter to me, assuring me of the desire himself and his brother Magistrates felt to render every assistance in carrying out the Poor Law Amendment Act, and expressed a wish for a conference with me on the subject.

2. On my next visit to Bath I called upon the Magistrates, and we discussed the first five questions contained in the accompanying paper, these being the points on which they had differed with the Board of Guardians.

3. As the Board of Guardians were desirous of being favoured with your opinion on the same points, I requested one of the Magistrates to draw up the questions that I might submit them to you, in order that a collision between the Board of Guardians and Magistrates might if possible be avoided, and that the former body might on all future occasions act under your advice.

4. I will take the liberty of giving my opinion on the several points as they arise, and which I was called on to give by the Board of Guardians in several cases, as they occurred:—

First,—All relief being in the hands of the Guardians, the Order must be made on them, and not on the Overseers; that the duties of the Overseers, under the 6th Rule of the

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Report of *R. Weale*, Esq. on the preceding Queries.

the Order of the Poor Law Commissioners, under the head of "Duties of Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor," is only to transmit such Order of the Justices to the Board of Guardians.

The Justices are anxious for the power of making an Order on Overseers, as they imagine they have power under the 95th Section to inflict a fine for disobedience of their Order.

Second,—That the Justices could only order that relief should be given out of the workhouse, the amount and nature of such relief being discretionary with the Guardians.

Third,—In answer to this question, I contended that a pauper must first apply to the Relieving Officer, whose duty it was to investigate the case and report to the Board of Guardians, who were to decide as to the necessity of relief, the way in which it was to be given, and its amount; and that in case they should decide that it should be in a workhouse, and give an Order to that effect, then that the Justices might be appealed to, and if they could comply with the proviso of the 27th Section, issue their Order to the Board of Guardians to give relief out of the workhouse: and I further contended, that the Justices should have before them as evidence that relief was ordered by the Guardians in the workhouse, the Order of admission of the pauper to the workhouse.

If Justices can give Orders in the first instance, without the case being first investigated and decided on by the Board of Guardians, the relief to the aged would in some districts be entirely monopolised by them.

Fourth,—The Justices gave an Order on the Overseers of Walcot to afford relief to a woman recently delivered of a bastard, out of the workhouse, in consequence of *her infirmity of body*. On investigating the case, I found that the Relieving Officer had given relief in kind, telling the pauper that on her being sufficiently recovered she would have no other relief than the workhouse. The Justices then put this question as to fever; and my answer was, that the Board of Guardians would never think of removing a pauper afflicted with sickness till the medical officer pronounced it safe to do so.

I presume the 27th Section does not apply to temporary infirmity, but on this I gave no opinion.

Fifth,—In answer to this question I referred them to the Act, not considering my duty called on me to act as their legal adviser.

4. The sixth and seventh questions were not put to me; had they been, they would have been easily answered.

5. I have to request the favour of the attention of the Poor Law Commissioners to the above subject at their earliest convenience, and that their opinion should be communicated through me.

Robert Weale,
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

(C.)—Letter from the Commissioners to Mr. *Weale*.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,
10 August 1836.

Sir,

Letter from the Commissioners.

The Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales have had under their consideration your communication of the 11th of July, relative to the construction of the 27th Clause of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and in which you request their opinion upon certain queries arising therein for the guidance of the Magistrates of the City of Bath and the Guardians of the Bath Union.

The Commissioners have directed their careful attention to the points submitted, and they have now to communicate to you the conclusions at which they have arrived:—

1st. As the 54th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act enacts that the "giving, ordering and directing of all relief," where there are Guardians, shall appertain and belong exclusively to such Guardians, "and that it shall not be lawful for any Overseer to give further or other relief than is ordered by such Guardians" (except in cases of sudden emergency), the order for relief to be given out of a workhouse, which two Justices are empowered to give by the 27th Section, must, in the opinion of the Commissioners, be directed to the Guardians of the Union, and not to the Overseers of the particular parish; and the sixth head of the duties of Churchwardens and Overseers contained in the Rules and Regulations for the Administration of Relief in the Bath Union, must be considered as subject to the law laid down in the Act and herein stated.

2d. The Commissioners consider that the Guardians are the proper judges of the amount of relief to be afforded; but if, in cases where relief is actually necessary, they shall give merely nominal relief, this is *primâ facie* an invasion of the Justices' Order, and the Justices may proceed against the Guardians for such evasion; and the question will then be raised, whether the pauper is properly relieved or not. Relief only to the extent of a penny weekly would be virtually a non-compliance with the Order.

3d. As the Rules of the Commissioners require all applications for relief, not being cases of urgent necessity, to be made through the relieving officers to the Guardians, the Commissioners consider that an applicant for relief cannot be said to be lawfully entitled to relief in the Union until that application is made. It would not be necessary, however, that the Guardians should order the pauper first into the workhouse, except in cases where the Rules of the Commissioners prohibit the Guardians from giving relief out of the workhouse, in which case the precedent order of the Guardians, before the Justices can order relief out of the

Letter from the Commissioners.

the workhouse, is contingent on the Rules of the Commissioners, but not on the 27th Section of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

The 27th Section cannot be supposed to give the Justices the power to originate an order for relief, or to control the Guardians or Overseers in that respect, beyond the mere discretion that the relief, if the party be an object for relief, shall be given out of a workhouse, supposing the applicant to fall under the class contemplated by Section 27.

4th. With respect to the inquiry, whether the Justices' power under the 27th Section extends to cases of complete inability to work in consequence of a fever or other temporary infirmity, the Commissioners have to remark, that the cases of temporary infirmity, in which a Justice may interfere and give an order for medical relief, are provided for in Clause 54; and this proviso, which is exceptive to the general scope of the Clause, putting all relief under the Guardians, shows the extent to which a Justice's original power to order relief is limited.

The concluding words of this Clause clearly point this out; "But it shall not be lawful for any Justice or Justices to order relief to any person or persons from the Poor Rates of any such parish, except as hereinbefore provided;" words evidently relating to the proviso immediately preceding.

5th. With regard to the enforcement of the Order in case of disobedience, it appears to the Commissioners that as the Guardians may sue and be sued as a Corporation, the order may be enforced against them or their clerk, as in the case of other Corporations.

6th. The separation of children at the breast from their mothers is not directed by any rule of the Commissioners; neither do they express any opinion in favour of such a practice.

7th. In cases of utter destitution, and where the relatives of the deceased pauper are unable to provide for his interment, it would be competent for the Board of Guardians to grant such assistance from the Poor Rates towards the burial, as they in their discretion might see fit.

Signed by order of the Board,

To Robert Weale, Esq. *E. Chadwick*, Secretary.
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

— No. 8. —

PAPERS on the Subject of the EDUCATION of CHILDREN in the Workhouse.

LETTER from the Clerk to the *Bedford* Union; dated Bedford, 7th February 1836.

Letter from the Bedford Union.

THE Guardians of the Bedford Union have directed me to write to inform the Poor Law Commissioners they are desirous of obtaining their sanction to have writing omitted as part of the schoolmaster's instruction in the workhouse, and that he teach *reading only*.

The board do not recommend this on the score of economy, but on that of principle, as they are desirous of avoiding greater advantages to the inmates of the workhouse than to the poor children out of it; withdrawing thereby as much as possible any premium or inducement to the frequenting the workhouse.

The motion that this letter be written to obtain the sanction of the Poor Law Commissioners, was carried, on a division, by 17 against 11.

COMMISSIONERS' Answer to the above Letter.

Answer of the Commissioners.

THE Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, in reference to your letter of the 7th instant, and to the application therein made by direction of the Board of Guardians of the Bedford Union, have to inform you, that they think it inconsistent with their duty to give a formal and deliberate sanction to a plan of workhouse instruction to the children who may be inmates, from which instruction in writing shall be systematically excluded.

The principle on which this exclusion is recommended being one of general application, the Commissioners could not recognize and act upon it with respect to Bedford without being prepared to apply it to all other places.

The Commissioners do not under-estimate the weight and importance of the argument that the children of labourers should not be enticed into the workhouse by the prospect of a better education within its walls than they could obtain elsewhere; but they think that this inducement would, to a considerable degree, be counteracted by a distaste for the necessary restraints of workhouse discipline, and the mere fact of its being pauper education.

The Commissioners do not doubt, also, that in all cases there will be schools accessible to the children of independent labourers of such a character as to be more attractive than any schools can be which are accessible only by becoming an inmate of a workhouse.

The Commissioners think it of the greatest importance that the workhouse children should be so taught as to give them the greatest attainable chance of earning an honest and independent maintenance for the remainder of their lives, and they cannot conceal from themselves that the acquisition of the power of writing greatly increases this chance.

They think also, that the workhouse children should not be so treated as to fix upon them any permanent stigma which should be likely to attach to them in after life. All other children who learn to read learn also to write; to have acquired a knowledge of reading, being at the same time altogether ignorant of the art of writing, would become the distinguishing mark of those who had received a workhouse education. Under these circumstances, the Commissioners think it necessary to abide by the rule laid down in the Workhouse Regulations issued for the Bedford Union.

Appendix (C.)

No. 9. Remuneration of Guardians.

— No. 9. —

COMMUNICATIONS on the Subject of the REMUNERATION of GUARDIANS.

I.—LETTER from *Thomas Hearn*, Esq., Clerk to the Guardians of the *Buckingham* Union, to the Poor Law Commissioners.

Letter from Clerk of Buckingham Union.

THE clerk is directed to inform the Commissioners, that upon the late election of guardians, Mr. Richard Ivens, who had served the office under the first election, was re-elected by a majority: the votes were, for Mr. Ivens, 16; for Mr. James Jones, 13; for Mr. Thomas Jones, 1; and for Mr. William Templer, 7. Mr. Ivens attended 23 meetings out of 40, to the 25th of March last, and was a particularly useful and efficient member of the Board.

Marsh Gibbon is a parish requiring to be well represented, more perhaps than any other within the Union, but it is eight or nine miles distant from the place of meeting. The meetings are seldom ever earlier than three o'clock, so that of course Mr. Ivens was at every meeting put to the expense of refreshment for himself and his horse; and the fact is, that he refuses to serve again unless guaranteed by the rate-payers a reimbursement of his expenses, and which he calculates at 5*s.* per diem; the rate-payers estimate his services so highly that they are desirous of acceding to his proposal at the reduced sum of 3*s.* 6*d.* per diem, but which he deems inadequate.

The clerk of this Union begs to add, that he believes several of the guardians have been returned on the recent occasion upon an understanding of a similar nature with the rate-payers for reimbursement of expenses (by a private rate); and without wishing to be intrusive, he humbly submits as his opinion, that an allowance regulated by the Commissioners, and graduated (in part) according to distance, would be preferable to this clandestine mode of effecting an arrangement, without which guardians (not being men of property) will not accept the office, or, if they accept it, will attend so seldom as to be altogether inefficient; and certainly the rate-payers, generally speaking, appear to allow the justice of reimbursing guardians their outlay, deeming their sacrifice of time and of their own affairs a sufficient detriment.

It may be added, that the meetings of this Union are not held on a market-day, the board having by an almost unanimous vote decided against such an arrangement, from the consideration that the important measure of the New Poor Law required undivided attention. At Banbury and some other places where the meetings are held on market-days, and a journey on purpose not required, the burthen of the expenditure must be much less felt.

Thos. Hearn,
Clerk to the Buckingham Union.

II.—ANSWER of the Poor Law Commissioners to the foregoing Letter.

Sir, 16 June 1836.

Commissioners' Answer.

1. THE Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales have to express their regret that the pressure of the business of the commission has prevented them giving an early reply to the memorial of the board of guardians of the Buckingham Union, requesting them to order payment to be made to the guardians for their services. To this request the commissioners have given their most serious consideration.

2. The Commissioners consider that by the terms of the Act, they are only empowered to direct the guardians or overseers to appoint paid officers, and it appears to them that the exercise of this power was intended to be applied only to the cases of the appointments of the officers who would be required to devote their whole time to the performance of the duties connected with the administration of relief; but the Commissioners find no express authority in the Act which would enable them to allow the guardians any remuneration for their services.

3. The Commissioners, however, direct me to state, that if the responsibility rested with them of ordering payment to the guardians, they feel strong doubts as to the policy of such a measure.

4. The office of guardian was intended to be placed on a similar footing to such voluntary or compulsory offices as magistrates, or as overseers or constables, offices directed to be filled by persons designated as "substantial persons," and who would be enabled to perform the duties of honorary offices as a part of their allegiance.

5. If the guardians were placed on the condition of paid officers, the Commissioners consider that a much smaller number would be requisite. The Commissioners would however remind the guardians, that from their station in society they have themselves strong pecuniary interests in the management of the rates; and that if the management be good and according to the rules, their time, even as regards their own interests, is frequently bestowed advantageously in checking undue and extravagant expenditure.

6. The office of guardian is essentially one for supervision and control, rather than for execution. The Commissioners trust, that as the administration of relief becomes more systematic and in accordance with sound principles, the duties of the office will become less severe than they have hitherto been at the commencement of the system, and that far less frequent attendance will ultimately be necessary to ensure a correct and beneficial administration of the rates. The objection urged as to the excessive weight of the existing duties for which payment is required, the Commissioners conceive would thus in time, and so far as the administration of relief to paupers is concerned, be abated by a steady execution of the Act.

7. The

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7. The Commissioners would remind the guardians, that if they were rendered paid officers they would be charged with heavier duties and responsibilities, and would moreover be subject to dismissal for non-attendance or for any neglect of duties.

8. The Commissioners could not but feel deeply the importance of the subject in another point of view, namely, the serious extent of taxation which such a charge would incur; for if the administration of relief should be organized into 800 Unions, with the present average number of guardians, which is about 20 to each Union, the expense of attendance of all the guardians at 5*s.* per diem, would be an additional tax of 208,000*l.* annually; but such an amount, or even a much greater amount of expenditure, ought not to be regarded if proportionate good were to be obtained: they do not, however, at present see ground for believing that adequate good would be accomplished by such means.

9. The Commissioners transmit for the consideration of the board of guardians, the annexed copy of a memorial which they have received on this subject from the board of guardians of the Banbury Union.

To Thomas Hearne, Esq.,
Clerk to the Buckingham Union.

Signed by order of the Board,
E. Chadwick, Secretary.

III.—Copy of a Memorial from the Board of Guardians of the *Banbury* Union, enclosed with the foregoing Letters.

TO the Poor Law Commissioners for *England* and *Wales*.

The Memorial of the undersigned Guardians of the *Banbury* Union.

Sheweth,

Memorial from Banbury Guardians.

That your memorialists have had before them a copy of a memorial addressed to your Honourable Board by the guardians of the Buckingham Union, having for its object the sanction of your Honourable Board that the guardians may be allowed, out of the parochial funds, the expenses of journies in attending their meetings.

Your memorialists being advised that the subject is now under the consideration of your Honourable Board, take the liberty of expressing their opinions upon it; feeling convinced that should such a measure be sanctioned, it will lead to a subversion of the best interests of the Unions.

Your memorialists consider that the adoption of such a measure would destroy the harmony and respectability of boards in general, by introducing there a class of persons of lower rank than those who have hitherto occupied the station of guardians. That it would superinduce a desire in men moving in a low sphere of life, to seek the distinction of guardians as the means of paying their expenses to market, rather than to execute the important duties committed to their charge. That jealousies and frequent contests would arise amongst them, for the sake of the pecuniary advantages attached to the office. That excitement and consequent dissensions amongst the local constituencies would prevail, whilst dissatisfaction would be engendered amongst the poor, at finding their supposed wants refused by those who would themselves become recipients from the parochial funds.

Your memorialists believe that the more respectable class of men would stand aloof from the petty contests which an allowance to the guardians would foster, and that the business of the Unions would be left to the conduct and management of those, who from want of education and habits of business, would be but little qualified for the duties of the guardianship.

Your memorialists will not yield to any board in their attention and watchfulness to the interests of their Union, and in their desire to promote and carry out the provisions of the law under which they are constituted, in its true spirit and integrity; but they are convinced that the good or evil results of the system, in a great degree depend upon the character and capacity for business of those who are the elected instruments of conducting the affairs of the Union; and that the interest of the Union itself would materially suffer, if the guardianship of the poor should ever be treated as a pecuniary matter, instead of being deemed an office of honourable distinction.

Your memorialists therefore hope that no rule, order or regulation, may issue from your Honourable Board, to sanction any payments to guardians in the shape of expenses for attending meetings, which may place the Banbury Union within its operation.

Signed by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and 39 other Guardians.

— No. 10. —

No. 10. Constables' Charges on Coroners' Inquests.

CASE respecting the Payment of Constables' Charges for attending Coroners' Inquests: with the Opinion of the Attorney and Solicitor General.

Case and Opinion.

Case.

The following are Copies of a Letter from the Clerk of the Peace for Berkshire to Lord John Russell, and its Enclosure:

My Lord, Newbury, 10 January 1836.

I am directed by the court of quarter sessions for the county of Berks to transmit the enclosed

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enclosed copy of an order of sessions, and to represent to your Lordship a difficulty that has occurred very generally in this county respecting the payment of expenses attendant upon a coroner's inquest, and to request your Lordship's instructions thereon.

When circumstances occur to render the attendance of a coroner necessary, it has hitherto been the practice of parish officers (in order to secure the delivery of the summons) to send notice to him by the constable of the parish, or other messenger, to desire his attendance: he, upon receiving that notice, returns a warrant for summoning a jury.

The expenses incurred by these proceedings, together with others which have usually been allowed on such occasions, have heretofore been paid out of the poor-rate; but since the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act the Commissioners have directed that such charges shall not be allowed in the overseers' accounts, being entirely unconnected with the relief of the poor; and it is the opinion of the Court of Quarter Session that such charges cannot be legally made upon the county; and in the absence of a constable's rate, which is rarely made in country parishes, there does not appear to be any fund from which such charges can be paid.

Your Lordship will be aware that this application refers only to the charges attendant on the summoning the coroner and jury; the hire of a room for holding inquest and deposit of body, where necessary; the payment of the medical fee (in almost all cases necessary) and the allowance to the jury; the fee to the coroner and mileage being provided for and paid by the county.

The charges usually made, but which vary in amount in different parishes, are as follow, and depending in great measure upon the distance at which the coroner lives from the place at which his attendance is required.

The following are the charges for Old Windsor and Clewer, two parishes in this county; and also for the town and parish of Newbury, as hitherto allowed :—

	Old Windsor.			Clewer.			Newbury.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Constable for journey to coroner and summoning jury	1	1	–	1	2	–	–	5	–
Coroner's warrant for summoning jury	–	5	–		—			—	
Ditto burial	–	5	–		—		–	7	–
Use of room for holding inquest	–	5	–	–	5	–		—	
Ditto for deposit of body, where necessary	–	5	–					—	
Fee to medical man for examination of body	1	1	–	1	1	–	1	1	–
Fee to jury, 1 *s.* each	–	12	–	–	12	–	–	12	–

The coroner's warrants for summoning the jury, and for board, have during the last six months been discontinued in Old Windsor and Clewer; and sometimes at Newbury there is a charge for the room wherein the inquest is held, varying from 2 *s.* to 5 *s.*, but not often, as the jurors generally spend their shillings on the occasion.

(signed) *W. Budd,*
Clerk of the Peace for Berks.

Berkshire, to wit. } At the general quarter sessions of the peace of Our Sovereign Lord the King, holden at Reading, in and for the said county, on Tuesday the fifth day of January, in the sixth year of the reign of Our Sovereign Lord William the Fourth, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and in the year of our Lord 1836, before Robert Palmer, esquire, chairman, Thomas Goodlake, esquire, and others their fellows, keepers of the peace and justices of Our said Lord the King, assigned to preserve the peace in the said county, and also to hear and determine divers felonies, trespasses and other misdemeanors committed in the said county and so forth:

On the motion of Mr. Ward, respecting the payment of the constables' and other expenses on the holding of coroners' inquests, heretofore paid out of the poor's-rate, but now discontinued by order of the Poor Law Commissioners, Ordered, that the clerk of the peace do write to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department, requesting information from what fund the following expenses should be paid: 1st., as to the expenses of the constable for journey to coroner, and executing coroner's warrants for summoning jury; 2d., room for deposit of body; 3d., the jury; 4th., burial; 5th., medical man for attendance and examination of the body.

(By the Court.)

The above letter having been referred to the secretary to the county-rate commissioners, the following is a copy of the report thereon :—

My Lord,

I have considered the letter of the clerk of the peace for the county of Berks, on which I beg leave to offer the following observations for your Lordship's consideration.

By the 4th Edward 1, s. 2, the coroner is authorized to issue his warrant to constables, &c.,

&c., to summon a jury and take an inquisition, by which an expense is necessarily incurred.

By the 18th Geo. 3, c. 19, s. 4, after stating that constables may be at great expense in doing the business of their parish, township or place, directs them every three months to deliver their accounts of all sums expended on account of the said parish, &c., to the overseers; and, if approved by the parish, the amount must be paid out of the poor-rates. If the parish objects, then any one or more of the justices of the peace may order the same to be paid, with liberty for either party to appeal to the sessions.

This statute, if unrepealed, would, as it seems to me, sufficiently authorize the payment of the necessary expenses of the constables on an inquest of the coroner, unless it be held that such expenses are not sums repaid on account of the parish, township or place, but on account of the county at large. This construction, I submit to your Lordship, would be incorrect, inasmuch as the constable is a local officer, and the same statute which directs the constables' expenses to come out of the parish rates provides that other expenses shall be charged on the county-rate, showing that the distinction was intended.

But it may be said that the 4th section of the 18th Geo. 3, c. 19, is virtually repealed by the Poor Law Act, by the 89th section of which all payments, charges and allowances made by any overseer, and charged against the rates, contrary to the provisions of that Act, or at variance with any rule or order of the Commissioners, are determined illegal, and the magistrates are required to disallow all such payments as illegal and unfounded.

The Commissioners must in making the order referred to by the justices of Berkshire, have supposed this clause to have had the effect above supposed; but this may well be doubted. The 18 Geo. 3 is a remedial Act, and to be repealed only where the intention is manifest, or by express words. The objects of the Poor Law Act are wholly different, and the payments there directed to be disallowed can only be such as relate to subjects over which the Poor Law Commissioners have power of control given them by the Act.

With great deference, therefore, I beg leave to express my doubt of the authority of the Commissioners to interfere with respect to the allowance to constables, which latter must, as I conceive, altogether depend on the 18th Geo. 3, c. 19.

Bedford Row, 20 January 1836. (signed) *G. Faulkner.*

Lord John Russell.

The following is a copy of the observations of the Poor Law Commissioners on these papers:

Payment of Expenses of Coroners' Inquests out of the Poor-rates.

The Poor Law Commissioners have issued no orders forbidding the payment of expenses attending coroners' inquests out of the poor-rates, nor is there any provision in the Poor Law Amendment Act which affects the question directly or indirectly.

The Commissioners have however in several instances been required by auditors and other persons to state their opinion as to the legality of such charges. The opinion which they have expressed is founded solely on the terms of 18th Geo. 3, c. 19, s. 4, upon which, as Mr. Faulkner justly states, the allowance must altogether depend.

That statute recites, that "whereas constables, headboroughs and tithingmen, are or may be at great charge in doing the business of their parish, township or place, and in many cases are not sufficiently indemnified by the laws," &c., and enacts "that every constable, headborough or tithingman, shall every three months and within 14 days after he shall go out of office, deliver to the overseers a just account in writing of all sums so by him expended on account of the said parish, township or place, in all cases not hitherto provided for by the laws heretofore made and by this Act, and also of all sums received by him on account of the said parish," &c.; and it proceeds to provide for the examination and allowance of such accounts.

1st. In the first place, it is to be observed, that the office of constable is by the common law a compulsory one, the duties of which are to be performed without remuneration, except when express provision to the contrary is made by statute. The object of the present statute is not to alter the nature of the office, or to compensate him for any personal services whatever, but is expressly stated to be to indemnify him against "great charges," and all that he can enter into his accounts are "all sums expended on account of the parish," and "all sums received on account of the parish."

The Commissioners therefore regard all charges for a constable's exertions in his office, such as are first enumerated in the minute of the order of justices of Berks, the giving notice to the coroner, summoning the jury, &c., as unauthorized by the statute in question.

2d. Next, the business must be "the business of the parish," the sums expended on account of the parish. Now the Commissioners have not been able to discover any authority whatever for considering the holding of an inquest as a parochial matter; the inquest is a preliminary inquiry concerning measures of Crown law, or which may become the subject of criminal procedure, and is by the nature of the subject matter identified in every respect with the measures of which the county tribunals alone have cognizance. None of the duties connected with it are assigned, either at common law or by statute, to churchwardens, overseers, or any other parish officer. On the contrary, the statute to which Mr. Faulkner refers, 4 Edw. 1, s. 2, directs the coroner "to command four of the next townships, or five or six, to appear before him in such a place," townships being civil divisions of counties. Accordingly, all the authorities treat the subject as the business of the county or of the

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civil divisions of the county, as the hundreds, townships, tythings, &c., which is perfectly conformable with the jurisdiction of the coroner, which extends most usually to counties, in other cases to liberties and precincts, but has no connexion with parochial limits.

The summons of the coroner goes either to townships (a county division), according to the statute above cited, or according to the recognized practice (1 Sid. 204. 1 Keb. 723. 2 Hawk. c. 9, s. 22) *ad vicinetam*; but it is nowhere, at least as far as the Commissioners can ascertain, connected with the parish.

The constable also is the officer for executing all warrants and precepts of justices, coroners and sheriffs, all of whom are county officers, while he is himself elected by the leet or town to serve for the hundred, vil, lordship or manor; and it is only by special custom that he is the officer of a parish (*R.* v. *Franchard*, 2 Stra. 1149), the Commissioners are therefore unable to discover any grounds for considering the holding of an inquest as "business of the parish;" this, however, is obviously required by the statute authorizing the allowance, and has been insisted on in several reported cases arising on the operation of the statute (*R.* v. *Savill*, 5 B. & Ald. 180. *R.* v. *Bird*, 2 B. & Ald. 526.)

The observation of Mr. Faulkner, that the statute by directing the constable's expenses to come out of the parish-rates, and providing that other expenses shall be charged on the county, shows that the distinction was intended, must be admitted: but in making the distinction the statute clearly distinguishes the expenses which the parish is to bear, by requiring them to be "incurred in the business of the parish;" there is no indication in the statute that it was intended that the criminal and other matters concerning the county, which the statute omits to provide for, should be paid by the parish.

Generally it is to be observed that the charges usually made in connexion with the holding of inquests, are wholly unauthorized, as the fees to medical and other witnesses, the fees to the jury, &c.; with regard to the fees to the constable for giving notice to the coroner and for executing his warrant, the latter act is a duty incidental to his office, and the former, though of evident utility in many cases, is a service voluntarily undertaken by him, and for which the law has made no provision; as regards the other charges, they are all subject to the objections that they are not incurred in the business of the parish, and that they have only been allowed out of the poor-rates in common with a vast number of other illegal charges, in consequence of the very lax administration of all measures connected with the laws relating to the relief of the poor or the expenditure of the poor-rates.

It must be admitted that the subject of the expenses attending coroner's inquests requires some legal provision, but it is clear that this object cannot be properly attained by converting the constable into the officer who is to incur all the expenses incidental to the performance of the duties of the coroners, under the pretence that they are expenses incurred on account of a parish.

It may properly be added, that the difficulty with regard to these expenses has occurred to many coroners without previous communication with the Commissioners, and all who have corresponded with the Commissioners have admitted that the 18 Geo. 3, c. 19, is not an authority for the charge on the poor-rates. Mr. Payne, the coroner for London and Southwark, may be more especially referred to. Mr. Charsley, the coroner for Bucks, who is also auditor for the Unions of Amersham and Eton, disallowed, on his own view of the matter, the charges in question when they occurred in the accounts of the parishes audited by him; the coroners have however generally recommended, on the ground of expediency, that the charges should be allowed by the Poor Law Commissioners; to this, however, the Commissioners have felt obliged to reply, that they have no authority whatever to subject the poor-rates to charges which the law has not expressly directed to be paid out of those rates.

Lord John Russell has been pleased to transmit these papers to the Solicitor of the Treasury, with directions to lay them before the Attorney and Solicitor-General, and request their opinion:—

1st. Whether the Commissioners of the Poor Laws are right in their opinion that the expenses above stated should not be allowed in the overseers' accounts, on the ground of their being unconnected with the relief of the poor?

2d. Whether the charges mentioned in the order of sessions can be legally made upon the county?

3d. Whether there is any and what fund from which such charges can be paid?

OPINION.

Opinion.

We are of opinion that the constable in giving notice to the coroner of the death which occasions the necessity of an inquest may fairly be considered as engaged on the business of his parish or township, and that he is entitled for that service to be reimbursed from the poor-rate, under the provisions of 18 Geo. 3, c. 19, s. 4, any sums which he may have properly expended in giving such notice. But with that exception we think that the items of charge mentioned in page 2 of this case*, are sums which cannot be considered as having been expended by the constable in doing the business of the parish or township, and consequently that the Commissioners of the Poor Laws are right in the opinion they have given. We are also of opinion that the charges mentioned in the order of sessions cannot be legally made on the county, and that, with the exception above noticed, there is no fund from which they can be paid.

* Page 480.

Temple,
15 March 1836.

J. Campbell,
R. M. Rolfe.

— No. 11. —

COMMUNICATIONS on the Payment of FEES on the BURIAL of PAUPERS.

1.—LETTER from the Rev. *J. B. Storry*, Vicar of Great Tey, Halstead.

Gentlemen, 31 Oct. 1835.

Letter from Rev. J. B. Storry.

I TAKE the liberty of respectfully requesting your opinion upon the following point:— Is there anything in the enactments of the New Poor Laws to deprive the clergyman of his customary fee at the burial of a pauper?

In my own parish of Great Tey, where I have now been vicar more than 21 years, I have always been accustomed to receive the sum of 3 *s.* for the burial of a corpse with grave service, and 4 *s.* when carried into the church. In the case of a pauper whose friends wished the body to be taken into the church, the 3 *s.* were paid by the overseer, and the remaining 1 *s.* by the friends of the person deceased. Since however the present overseers came into office, in which they have continued, by serving substitute, for upwards of a twelvemonth, this moderate fee has been refused to be paid.

Now, this trifling sum is happily not an object to me; I feel that I have no right to sacrifice the revenues of my very moderate living, as I may be succeeded by a man whose sole dependance for his maintenance may be upon the proceeds of this vicarage. I have, therefore, resisted this encroachment; and it will afford me much gratification, and may tend to allay a good deal of undesirable feeling, should my view of the case meet with your approbation. An early answer will be esteemed a favour by, Gentlemen,

To the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales.

Your very obedient Servant,
J. B. Storry.

Poor Law Commission Office,
Sir, Somerset House, 7 November 1835.

Commissioners' Answer.

YOUR letter of the 31st ultimo, in which you inquire whether there is anything in the enactment of the New Poor Laws to deprive the clergyman of his customary fee at the burial of a pauper, was received on the 2d instant by the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales.

In reply, the Commissioners have to state that there is nothing in the Poor Law Amendment Act which, in their opinion, at all affects the question. The statute of Elizabeth, which prescribed the purposes for which the rate is to be levied, does not, nor does any other statute that the Commissioners are aware of, expressly provide for the burial of a pauper. By the statute of 43 Eliz., c. 2, s. 1, the rate is to be "applied to the setting the poor on work, to the necessary relief of the lame, impotent, old, blind, and such other among them being poor and not able to work, and also for the putting out of children to be apprentices."

Other statutes make provision for the application of the rate to other special purposes, but none, as above remarked, to the purpose in question.

The Commissioners are therefore of opinion, that if the persons who are charged with the detailed administration of the Poor Laws think fit to abide by the strict and rigid interpretation of the laws as they now stand, it may be doubtful whether they can be compelled to provide for the expenses attendant on the burial of a pauper out of the money raised for the maintenance of the poor.

There is no doubt, however, that notwithstanding this apparent omission in the law, a practice somewhat at variance with it has been adopted, and whenever a pauper has died in a really destitute condition, the parish which has sustained him when living has usually provided for the cost of his funeral when dead; and it is so evidently necessary that the burial of paupers should in some way or other be provided for, that the Commissioners have decided not to direct the auditors to disallow in the accounts charges which may appear to be incurred on that head.

With reference to the question which forms the immediate subject of your letter, the Commissioners are desirous of pointing out, that as far as burial fees can be deemed a necessary part of the expenses of burying a pauper, the foregoing observations must be held to apply to them.

It forms no part of the duty of the Commissioners to express an opinion as to the validity of the clergyman's claim to burial fees, to the mode in which they may be enforced, or the persons who are liable to pay them. But if the claim to such fees is either admitted or established, the Commissioners will not object to their being considered as a part of the necessary expense attendant on a pauper funeral, and to their being provided for out of the poor-rate whenever the guardians or overseers shall think it incumbent on them to charge the expense of burying a pauper on the parish funds.

Signed by order of the Board,

To the Rev. J. B. Storry, Vicar, Great Tey, Halstead.

E. Chadwick, Secretary.

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No. 12. Correspondence on use of Workhouse for Meetings.

— No. 12. —

CORRESPONDENCE relative to the use of a Workhouse for holding POLITICAL or MUNICIPAL MEETINGS.

1.—LETTER from Mr. *J. G. Hayden*, Overseer of Lyncombe and Widcombe, near Bath.

3, John-street, Queen-square, Bath,
17 November 1835.

Gentlemen,

Letter from Overseer, Bath.

I AM one of the regular (not the assistant) overseers of the parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe, adjoining this city,—a parish of upwards of 1,000 inhabitants. A portion of them have claimed the use of our parish workhouse to hold their meetings in, relative to matters connected with the Municipal Corporation Bill: such as naming councilmen, appointing committees, &c. &c.; to which I have objected to consent, upon the ground that I conceive parish officers have not any right to permit the parish workhouse to become an arena for political squabbles. I would, therefore, beg the favour of your informing me, at your earliest convenience, for my future guidance, "whether churchwardens and overseers are authorized in permitting any meetings to be held in the parish workhouse, which are unconnected with the poor, and particularly political or municipal meetings."

Waiting the favour of your reply, I am, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners, Somerset House.

(signed) *James Geo. Hayden.*

2.—ANSWER of the Commissioners to the foregoing Letter.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,
23 November 1835.

Sir,

Commissioners' Answer.

THE Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales have received your letter of the 17th instant, and in answer to your inquiry, have to state that the workhouse can only be legally used for purposes connected with the relief of the poor, and the churchwardens and overseers would not be justified in permitting its application to any other uses.

Signed by order of the Board,
E. Chadwick, Secretary.

Mr. Jas. Geo. Hayden, Overseer,
3, John-street, Queen-square, Bath.

3.—LETTER from *Arthur West*, Esq., Bath.

Greenway-lodge, Bath, 10/12 Month 1835.

Respected friend, Edwin Chadwick,

Letter from *A. West*, Esq., Bath.

* * * I AM happy to say that a few individuals, who have long been out of employ, have already voluntarily undertaken a journey into Lancashire, willing to accept whatever occupation might there offer.

I believe thou wilt excuse my troubling thee upon a subject on which I, in common with a large proportion of the rate-payers of this parish, feel interested. J. G. Hayden, one of the overseers of the parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe, in which I reside, has shown me a letter he recently received from thee, in reply to some inquiry from him relative to the overseers permitting the poorhouse to be used for other purposes than those connected with the poor.

May I be allowed to state our case?

Shortly after the passing of the Municipal Reform Act, and before the agitation consequent upon the approaching election had commenced, I drew up a requisition to the overseers of this parish, asking in respectful terms for the use of one of the rooms in the poorhouse for any meetings that it might be needful to hold preparatory to and in connection with the election of municipal officers; this was signed by 29 rate-payers: we might have obtained five times that number, had it been thought needful. I presented this document to one of the overseers, who after taking some hours to deliberate upon it, on the part of himself and his colleague, J. G. Hayden, conceded to our request; and the same permission was also given by one of the churchwardens to a gentleman associated with us. The committee for conducting the election of the liberal candidates, consisting of about 30 persons, has accordingly met several times at the poorhouse, at every one of which meetings I have been present, and all have been conducted with good order and propriety. J. G. Hayden, who is an active man among the other party, stated to me that he feared we might make a disturbance, or to use his own phrase, "get up a row" at the poorhouse, and that he had therefore written to the Poor Law Commissioners, to inquire whether the overseers were justified in allowing the use of the place for such purposes. His real motive must be obvious. Last evening, on the committee again assembling at the poorhouse, they found the doors locked against them, and were informed by the master of the place, that Mr. Hayden had been there a short time previous and directed it to be done, and at the same time desired him to say, "that he had taken the opinion of the magistrates, and that if any gentleman attempted to make a forcible entrance, they (the magistrates) would

would grant a summons against him:" but that the school-room adjoining was at the service of the committee. The school-room is a large cold building, with a brick floor, and by no means easy of access on a dark night; it was purchased with the poorhouse, and is the property of the parish, being on the same premises. Being friends of peace and respecters of the law, we quitted the place, and adjourned to a neighbouring public-house. To enable thee to understand the question at issue between us, it may not be amiss to state that a considerable portion of the poorhouse is not appropriated either to the occupation of its pauper inmates or to the master and his family; four rooms at least are vacant, and only used occasionally for the business of the overseers, for meetings of the select and general vestry, for parish committees, for the parliamentary elections, for coroner's inquests, &c.

This parish forms of itself a distinct ward under the Corporation Reform Act, and is the only parish within the borough which is undisturbed in its limits.

There is no other public room within the parish (with the exception of those at public-houses); and the rooms at the poorhouse being common or neutral ground, possess on that account an advantage over them, in addition to such as will readily present themselves to thee. The population of the parish is about 8,000; and some place at which men of all grades and opinions may meet on equal terms, seems required on public occasions.

It is not for me to question the decision of the Commissioners: if the matter has been fairly laid before them, and if their opinion remains unaltered, we of course must submit to their judgment.

I have no wish but to promote the good order, the morality, and the well-being of my fellow-parishioners, and this I conceive would be best effected by doing away with the necessity of their meeting at those places where custom requires the introduction of liquor during their deliberations.

It may not be amiss for me to add, that at a meeting of the burgesses of this ward, held on the poorhouse premises (viz. in the school-room already adverted to) on the 23d ultimo, J. G. Hayden was present and moved one of the resolutions, and that the other overseer and one of the churchwardens allowed their names, jointly with J. G. Hayden's, to be placed upon the committee then appointed for conducting the election of their candidates.

I have to apologize for troubling thee with these details; and requesting the favour of an early reply, remain

Thine very respectfully,

Arthur West.

4.—Answer of Commissioners to preceding Letter.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,
16 December 1836.

Sir,

I have read to the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales your letter of the 10th instant, and I am directed by the Board to state in reply, that no buildings erected under the sanction of the Legislature for any special purpose, as for the relief of the poor, can without such sanction be legally applied to any other purpose, and that the officers having charge of such buildings cannot apply them or permit them to be applied to any other than that purpose, without becoming legally responsible for the misuser.

Commissioners' Answer.

The answer given by the Commissioners to the letter of Mr. Hayden, was given on the presumption that the premises in question were built solely for the purpose of the relief of the poor, and they do not see in your letter anything to rebut that presumption.

The Commissioners are well aware that the use of a building to hold public meetings for the transaction of municipal and other public purposes, may be highly convenient and necessary. But in other cases the Commissioners are also obliged to prevent such misuse even for beneficial purposes, and are equally compelled to disallow payments from the poor's-rates when they are diverted to objects of acknowledged utility, as the erection of pumps for the public use, the establishment of fire-engines, payments for a police, where such payments have not been provided for by any statute; it not being legal to apply a compulsory rate or tax to any other than the specific purpose for which it is raised.

Upon your statement that the committee for conducting the election of one set of candidates have made use of the workhouse, the Commissioners observe, that to sanction the use of workhouses for political or other such purposes, would be to hold out inducements to parties to seek parochial offices not for the legitimate purpose of distributing relief to the poor, but for the purpose of furthering political or party objects. The obtrusion of the political feelings of any party or of any sect in the administration of relief, has generally been found to operate prejudicially in increasing the spread of pauperism amongst the labouring classes, in causing relief to be distributed for other objects than the simple object of relieving the destitute, and in occasioning the appointment of paid officers to be made, not for their fitness to perform the duties of their offices, but for their activity as political connexions or partizans. The retention of office, and abusive modes of administration at the expense of the rate-payers, and to the prejudice of the poor, for party purposes, is frequently found by the Commissioners to be one of the most serious obstacles to a voluntary and beneficial change of system.

With relation to your statement as to the proceedings of Mr. Hayden, the Commissioners consider his conduct as you state it to have been illegal, and the more censurable, inasmuch as he appears to have entertained doubts as to the legality of the same practice when pursued by an opposing party. The Commissioners have directed me to write and inform him that on his part the practice must not be repeated. The Commissioners feel assured of your voluntary acquiescence in the course which they deem to be legal.

Appendix (C.)

No. 12. Correspondence on use of Workhouse for Meetings.

I regret that a heavy pressure of business and correspondence has prevented an immediate answer to your letter.

Arthur West, Esq.
Greenway Lodge, Bath.

I have, &c.
E. Chadwick, Secretary.

5.—Letter from Commissioners to Mr. *J. G. Hayden*, Overseer, *Bath.*

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,
16 December 1835.

Sir,

Commissioners' Letter to Overseer, Bath.

The Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales have been informed, that "at a meeting of the burgesses of your ward, held on the poorhouse premises (viz. in the school-room) on the 23d ultimo, Mr. J. G. Hayden was present, and moved one of the resolutions, and the other overseer, and one of the churchwardens, allowed their names, jointly with Mr. Hayden's, to be placed upon the committee then appointed for conducting the election of their candidates."

The Board feel it their duty to intimate to you, that if this be correct, your conduct on the occasion referred to, in permitting the use of the parish premises, was illegal, and the more censurable inasmuch as you appear to have entertained doubts of the legality of the practice when pursued by an opposing party.

The Board wish further to apprize you, that after the intimation you have received, you will be held responsible for taking any part in a repetition of this practice.

Signed by order of the Board,

Mr. Jas. Geo. Hayden, Overseer,
3, John-street, Queen-square, Bath.

E. Chadwick, Secretary.

— No. 13. —

No. 13. Admission of Public to Meetings of Guardians.

PAPERS relative to the Admission of the Rate-payers to the Meetings of Boards of Guardians.

1.—Letter of certain Householders of *Lambeth* to the Chairman of the *Lambeth* Guardians. Communicated to the Poor Law Commissioners.

(Copy.)

Sir,

Letter of Lambeth Householders.

We, rated Householders, respectfully request admission to the board-room, to witness, but to take no part in your deliberations; and claiming this as a right we hope will not be deemed offensive.

The Act under which your board is appointed to represent us in the disposition of rates which we contribute, provides that in each succeeding year you, individually, may be re-elected, so that a faithful and diligent performance of the duties may be thus acknowledged, and an opposite conduct stigmatized by rejection. This essential, namely, the electing the most fit persons, can only be attained by witnessing the exercise of their deputed functions, by inhabitants occasionally attending at the meetings of the board.

This must have been the view of the Legislature, and even of the Commissioners, in whose Order, section 2, No. 2, public notice is to be given of the time and place of your weekly meetings; and again, that they may attend and examine the accounts, books and vouchers, in the board-room, not excepting the sittings of the board. Indeed, the Marriage Act confirms it, by requiring the publication of banns at the board instead of at church, which banns any person, having a right, may forbid (sec. 9). Unless it be said that the Act deems three or four guardians all the public of this parish, the provision is conclusive as to our claim. The power given to the rate-payers annually to exercise a discrimination, would be a mockery if the acts of the board were all done in secret.

We are, &c.
John Doulton,
James Tod,
James Shield,
George Fall,
F. A. Angero.

To the Chairman of the
Board of Guardians.

The party whose letter requests admission to your deliberations, await your reply.

2.—Letter of Commissioners on the above; to the Clerk to the Guardians of *Lambeth.*

Sir,

Commissioners' Letter.

The Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales have directed me to acknowledge the receipt of a letter, addressed to the Chairman of the board of guardians of the parish of Lambeth, purporting to be the letter of five rated householders of that parish, requesting, and claiming as their right, to be present at the deliberations of the board of guardians.

In reply to the application of the board of guardians for their opinion thereon, the Commissioners direct me to state, that they have never yet thought it necessary to make any order constituting the boards of guardians open courts; but, on the contrary, under the existing circumstances of the Unions, have refused to accede to applications made to them to order boards of guardians to admit strangers to be present at their proceedings.

The

The following are the chief grounds upon which the Commissioners have come to this determination.

The current business of the boards of guardians consists chiefly in hearing and determining the claims of paupers to relief. In the performance of this duty it is often requisite to resist the unfounded claims of the indolent, the improvident, and the vicious, and any publicity to the discussions on these claims would be the means of exciting strong personal animosities. Many instances have occurred of the infliction of malicious injuries on the person or property of individual guardians. It is believed that these offences have been committed in consequence of the individuals who had moved the rejection of undeserving claims to relief, having been made known to the vicious classes of paupers whose allowances were reduced. To throw open the discussions of the boards of guardians on individual cases would, therefore, in the present state of many of the pauperized districts, be to occasion the commission of such offences. Cases also occur where the presence of a fluctuating body of strangers, or irresponsible persons, is inexpedient as regards the applicants for relief.

The Commissioners are not unaware of the general advantages of publicity in the proceedings of public bodies, and have endeavoured to ensure that publicity should be given to all the results of the proceedings of the local officers. For this purpose it is prescribed, with relation to the accounts of the new Unions, that all the books shall be open to the inspection of any rate-payers, at times and places of which due notice will be given. From an inspection of these books the decision upon each individual case will be known, and upon due inquiry the real circumstances of the case will be known: while the parts taken by individual guardians in obtaining the decision of the board will be comparatively unknown; and the Commissioners are not aware of any other than disadvantageous consequences having ever been produced by an opposite practice.

Out of the 10,000 rate-payers of Lambeth, not more than a small proportion could possibly attend the proceedings of the board, or any public meeting; in consequence of which circumstance, as the Commissioners are well informed, a revenue of upwards of 50,000 *l.* per annum has been heretofore swayed in that parish by promiscuous assemblages of about one-twentieth at the most numerous meetings, but usually by not more than a fiftieth, or even a hundreth part of the rate-payers. In these assemblages, the members of public-house clubs have been predominant, and their proceedings have commonly been at variance with the wishes of the greater number of rate-payers, as shown by the votes when a poll has been taken.

Instances have been stated to the Commissioners, where bodies constituted for the administration of relief under the law as it stood before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, have with the views set forth in the letter which you have submitted to the consideration of the Commissioners, thrown open the board to whatever rate-payer chose to attend; and that, as a consequence of this proceeding, it has been found necessary to adopt a practice of appointing committees, and referring business to them, in order to avoid the inconvenience of debates and the imposition of undue responsibility on individuals.

Instances have also occurred under the new law, where the meetings of boards of guardians have been thrown open to strangers and irresponsible persons, and after a trial of the practice it has been abandoned, as being inapplicable to meetings of boards of guardians, and generally as being prejudicial to the interests of the rate-payers as well as to the paupers.

It is found practically that much inconvenience is incurred under such arrangements, by the opportunities which it affords to speech-making for the purposes of display in questions of detail, to which such a mode of proceeding is inapplicable, however useful it may be in other cases under proper regulations. It is also found that the more common motives to the promiscuous attendance by the small proportion of self-appointed persons, whether of rate-payers or others, on such occasions, are not those arising from a fair desire to judge of the correctness of the administration of relief by the elected representatives of the rate-payers and owners, (the guardians,) but commonly motives arising from some other unconnected object. It is consequently found, that where such attendance is given, the reports circulated of the business really transacted are too often biassed, garbled and imperfect, and mislead rather than inform the rate-payers. So apprehensive are some of the guardians whose services have been highly valuable to the parish, that a permission for strangers and self-appointed persons to attend the meetings, would be used for the purpose of misrepresentation and annoyance, that they have declared that they could not long attend to the business of the parish under such a regulation. It has been stated to the Commissioners, as a ground for this apprehension, that highly respectable persons have been driven away from the open vestry by the insults, violence and uproars which have prevailed there.

The most striking instances of parochial peculation and mismanagement have occurred in the management by vestries where the proceedings have been open to all those rate-payers who have time or inclination to attend to the management of the poor-rates; the debate and undue attention to particular points and to personalities at such promiscuous assemblages, giving opportunities for extensive mismanagement in matters which, though most important, are not conspicuous.

The Commissioners do not refer to the open vestry in this parish as having presented instances of peculation and mismanagement: the management under the former state of things may have been pure in the instance of many of the self-elected parochial officers; but they find an exemplification of the superior management by a responsible representative board of guardians, in the fact of which they have received satisfactory information, that whilst no class of cases of unmerited hardship has occurred, the amount of out-door relief

Appendix (C.)

No. 13. Admission of Public to Meetings of Guardians.

Commissioners' Letter.

in the parish of Lambeth was recently only 109 *l.* weekly, whilst under the system which existed prior to the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act, the amount of out-door relief in that parish was about 550 *l.* weekly.

Should any adequate grounds exist for doubting the general correctness of the administration of relief by any board of guardians representing the owners and rate-payers, the Commissioners would, on receiving a statement of such grounds, direct a satisfactory inquiry to be made therein.

The letter upon which the opinion of the Commissioners is requested adverts to the fact of the Legislature having required that notices of marriages shall be read at the weekly meetings of the guardians, and sets forth this circumstance as confirmatory of the opinion that the proceedings of the board should be open to all rate-payers who may think proper to attend; but at the time the Act was passed, it was well known that the practice of the boards of guardians differed in no respect as regards such attendance from the practice of boards for the management of other public concerns; and no provision having been made in the Act for any alteration of that practice, it must be inferred that no alteration was intended. The Commissioners are informed that the notices of marriages are intended to be exhibited to all persons who may come to examine them, and the object of reading the notice to the guardians is thus more fully attained.

Believing that by the new forms of accounts, not only of money expended, but of things ordered to be done, a more correct knowledge of the administration of relief, and greater power of checking abuse is secured to the rate-payers and owners than heretofore, the opinion of the Commissioners as to the advantage of admitting persons who have no authority from the great body of the rate-payers remains unchanged, that under existing circumstances it would confer powers on promiscuous assemblages or indeterminate bodies injurious to the labouring classes and to the rate-payers at large, whose right of inspection and control is best secured by the regulations adverted to.

The Commissioners, therefore, feel it to be their duty to decline sanctioning the alteration in the existing practice suggested by the writers of the letter which has been transmitted to them.

To the Clerk of the Board of Guardians, Lambeth Workhouse.

I have, &c.
E. Chadwick, Secretary.

— No. 14. —

LETTER to *E. Chadwick*, Esq. from Sir *Culling Eardley Smith*, bart., on the Operation of the Amended System of Poor Law Administration.

No. 14. Letter from Sir *C. E. Smith.*

Dear Sir, London, 14 July 1836.

I BEG leave to submit, through you, a few observations to the Poor Law Commissioners, relating to the operation of the new law in a few important particulars. It is superfluous to tell you that as a whole it is working admirably, far beyond the expectations of its most sanguine supporters. The energies of the peasantry are recovering their tone; nothing but absolute destitution will now bring the labourer to apply for relief; the pauper is the exception instead of the rule; and while the industry of the labouring class is rapidly improving, a fund for its employment is simultaneously created, by the saving effected in the farmer's expenditure, under the head of rates. During periods of the year when, under the old system, a large proportion of the labourers in the parishes now constituting the Hertford Union were dependent on the parishes for employment, the farmers have, during the current year, been unable to obtain sufficient hands for their operations. That this fact indicates an improved state of cultivation in the country, not less advantageous to the owners of land, than is the actual saving in rates, both to occupiers and owners, is a proposition which cannot be denied; while the regeneration of the labourers, as a class, is a circumstance scarcely more gratifying to us as philanthropists, than important to us as proprietors of the soil; the value of which (the raw material of our manufacture) very much depends upon the condition, moral as well as physical, of the live machinery by which it is converted into produce.

You will, however, be overwhelmed by similar evidence from all quarters; and I therefore turn from the general view of the subject to one or two particular branches of it which have forced themselves on my consideration during the experience of the past year, and which appear to me to deserve the particular attention of the Commissioners and of the country.

Medical arrangements.

The Commissioners are aware of the painful circumstances in which the board of guardians of the Hertford Union have been placed, in relation to the medical arrangements of their district. We felt that it was our duty to encourage the establishment of independent medical clubs, on grounds, not only of public economy, but of utility to the labouring class; and we felt that in respect of such persons as should still remain dependent upon us for medical relief, a contract at per head, either as an annual insurance, or in the shape of payment upon the occurrence of illness, would constitute the most effectual, as well as the cheapest, method of providing for paupers. To these views, unfortunately, the whole medical profession of Hertford set themselves in opposition; and we were reluctantly compelled to introduce a practitioner from a distant part of the country. The pauper contract has not been long enough in operation to enable me to pronounce any opinion on its actual effects; but it is certainly calculated to induce greater attention on the part of the medical man to the cases consigned to him by the board of guardians, while the tendency, as respects the boards, is to induce a greater discrimination in granting medical orders, and as regards the poor, to cause a greater reluctance in applying for such orders, which are known to cost so much

much apiece. There is a large class of the community who have hitherto vibrated between pauperism and independence, becoming paupers under certain unfavourable contingencies, in some cases returning to independence on the removal of the cause of their distress, in other cases continuing paupers, after the circumstances which first introduced them to pauperism were at an end. This class consists of persons who, in health, are capable of providing for themselves; but who, in sickness, have been induced, by the facility of obtaining medical relief, and by the knowledge that the medical attendant was paid by a salary for attending to all the poor who might require his aid, to throw themselves upon the public. An application for the doctor led to an application for an allowance; the grant of an allowance superseded the necessity of belonging to clubs, and thus large numbers were involuntarily and imperceptibly sucked into the vortex of pauperism.

Now we think we have thrown difficulties in the way of the first downward step; difficulties which will not impede the relief of the actually destitute, but which will compel those who have any resources to seek to make the most of them. With the difficulties, too, in the way of pauperism, we have offered facilities in the way of independence. Without enabling the peasant to provide for himself in seasons of sickness, it would, to say the least, have been harsh to have deprived him of the provision hitherto made for him at the public expense. Medical clubs put this advantage within the reach of every poor person not otherwise a pauper. The maximum yearly payment for a family, in the clubs of the Hertford Union, is 10*s.* Now the independence of a person, in respect of other relief, involves a payment of 3*l.* to 5*l.* for rent, together with the purchase of fuel, clothes and subsistence, for himself and his family. Is it possible that a person can be able to defray these expenses, and yet that the addition of 10*s.* should just turn the scale and render him unable to provide for himself? Is there an able-bodied cottager who would not sooner add 10*s.* to his rent than become a pauper? Then why not belong to a medical club, and be for ever independent of the parish doctor?

But the great difficulty is to induce the local practitioners to come in to the views of the Poor Law Commissioners on this point. I am sure this is not from want of liberality; a more liberal profession does not exist; but it originates in misapprehension, a misapprehension which has even extended to some of the boards of guardians. While contests have been going on between the payers and the paid, as to the amount of remuneration for attending the poor of a given district, the medical men justly feeling that no sum which a board of guardians could give would adequately remunerate them for attending the whole of the peasantry, and the guardians as justly feeling that there could be no sum which a medical man would accept but what would appear an extravagant item in the Union accounts, the main practical question has been lost sight of on both sides; not the amount of medical remuneration, but the diminution of the class to be provided for. I think if this could be fairly put before the contending parties, together with the method by which that diminution may be legitimately effected, a great deal of disagreement might be prevented, and much practical benefit to all classes would be the result.

System of accounts.

The system of accounts in our Union occasions some dissatisfaction. The officers think them unnecessarily intricate, and the public say that the published accounts do not give sufficient information. I am disposed to think the account published quarterly ought to contain a comparison with the corresponding quarter of the previous year, and that the details of the "establishment" expenses ought to be annexed. And I think that if an account for each parish were opened in the ledger, and one account for "establishment," these, with the cash-books of the treasurer and relieving officers, would constitute a sufficient body of accounts for all practical purposes.

Amount of duties of Boards of Guardians, and their officers.

I must now allude to a very unexpected difficulty, occasioned by the actual success of the poor law. The boards of guardians are finding by experience that they can materially reduce the staff of their establishments. By the concentration of workhouses and of relief districts, many workhouse keepers and relieving officers have been dispensed with. I anticipate a possible evil, incidental upon the primary and unquestionable benefit thus afforded to the public. Our paid officers will not, I fear, cordially enter into improved systems of management which lead to the reduction of their own number; and even if they do, and if after a short time the establishments of the Unions shall come to be generally reduced to the minimum of the machinery by which they can be worked, the work will still go on diminishing; we shall have steam to spare.

The natural remedy is, to give us more to do. Mr. Poulett Scrope's proposal to make the boards collect the rates by their own officers falls in admirably with the necessity which I anticipate. There can be no possible reason why the relieving officer should not, while he doles out allowances with one hand, be collecting the rates with the other. Nor is our machinery perfect, so long as the boards, the expenditors of the poor's-rates, are dependent upon officers over whom they have no control for the collection of the money from the rate-payers. I have known cases where the parishes have not had money in hand to meet the orders made by the boards on the overseers.

But I take a wider view of the capabilities of the boards of guardians. Give the paid staff a sufficiency of employment, and you will still have a decreasing occupation for the members of the boards themselves. In a few years, in some Unions in a few months, the bulk of relief will be given within the workhouses. There will be little discretion to be exercised, guardians will absent themselves from the boards, and the administration of relief will fall very much into the hands of the few who reside nearest to the place of meeting. Now I conceive the Poor Law Commissioners and the Legislature did not contemplate, and would very much regret, such a result. It is intended, that in the event of a doubtful case arising, the representative of the parish should be present to advise the board on the subject. Let

Appendix (C.)
No. 14.
Letter from Sir *C. E. Smith.*

me suggest the propriety of bestowing several functions on the guardians, which would ensure their regular attendance, and which they would, without the least difficulty, be capable of discharging. There are now in every parish at least five annual officers, guardian, overseer, surveyor, constable, churchwarden. I propose to retain but one, exercising the functions, not of guardian of the poor only, but of guardian of the parish, in respect of the poor, the roads, and the churches; and, I would add, of civil registration. The functions to be exercised, not by the individuals, but by the board in its corporate capacity; except in so far as relates to relief in cases of urgent necessity, which is now given by the overseer, and should continue to be given by the "guardian of the parish."

The functions of constable I am supposing will be superseded by a rural police, acting under a county board, which whoever will read the recent report of the county-rate commissioners, will, I think, see the propriety of basing upon the boards of guardians by means of a secondary representation.

It is known to the Commissioners that much difficulty exists in small parishes to obtain a sufficient number of persons properly qualified to fill the parochial offices. This difficulty would be removed by vesting all the functions I have alluded to in the Union boards, working by means of paid officers, assisted by committees for special purposes, and acting under the control, in every respect, of the Poor Law Commissioners.

Highways.

The Commissioners are aware that a Bill passed in the last session (1835), which was expected at the time to be a satisfactory settlement of the laws relating to highways, the object being to facilitate unions of parishes for the management of roads, under competent paid surveyors. The Bill has failed to produce the intended effect, because its adoption is optional in each locality, a principle which seems to me faulty, as regards the theory of legislation, not less than in the results which naturally flow from it. If a system is good, it ought not to rest with each parish to accept or reject it, but it should be absolutely enacted. If it is beneficial in the places where it is adopted, its non-operation in other places, *teste auctore*, must be prejudicial. This uncertain state of the law, or rather of the practice, would be removed by the course I have recommended. Civil registration I need not dwell upon. I believe there is no doubt that Parliament will place these functions under the management of the boards of guardians.

Churches.

The management of the repairs of the churches I also propose to vest in the guardians. There appears to be an universal desire to discover a substitute for church-rates. I personally cannot conceive the public revenues being applied to the purpose, unless ministers of various denominations are to be permitted the use of the pulpits. Ecclesiastical funds might be legitimately applied to the purpose, but an influential and respectable party would resist this proposal on principle, and most persons will agree that if any other means of repairing the churches could be discovered, the whole surplus of episcopal and cathedral revenues might be well applied in the augmentation of small cures. It appears to me that the boards of guardians would be bodies sufficiently responsible to the public to be entrusted with the assessment of pew-rents for the maintenance of the edifices within the Unions.

Compulsory dissolution of Unions.

I have already protracted this letter to too great a length. I had nearly, however, omitted to urge on the Commissioners the absolute necessity of their obtaining from Parliament a power for the compulsory dissolution of Unions; I think they will, otherwise, encounter considerable difficulty in dealing with some of the Unions under Gilbert's Act, the vast inferiority of which to the new poor law Unions persons will be too ignorant or too prejudiced to perceive. I think, too, the Commissioners themselves must have perceived that they have been led into an error, a very pardonable one, of making some of the new Unions too small, in compliance with local requests. It speaks for itself: given expense of a good machinery, distribute it over a small, and over a large space, in which will it cost most per square mile? I fear, however, (indeed I know) that the Commissioners would have great difficulty in undoing some of these small Unions, if it were to continue necessary to obtain a majority of consents.

I have only to add, that I think all the regulations issued by the Commissioners for the management of workhouses appear to answer their purpose admirably well.

I have, &c.

Edwin Chadwick, Esq., &c. &c. *Culling Eardley Smith.*

—No. 15.—

LETTER to *E. Chadwick*, Esq. from the Rev. *James Beard*, Rector of *Cranfield, Beds*, on the Results of the Migration of Labourers, under the Amended System of Poor Law Administration.

No. 15.
Letter from Rev. *J. Beard.*

My dear Sir, Cranfield Rectory, Woburn, Beds, 1 June, 1836.

Migration.

From the courtesy I have received from the board, and the interest I have always taken in the poor laws, I am induced to write a few lines, showing how the amended system has operated, as connected with migration, in this parish, as well as in this Union (Ampthill) at large. To enter into full detail would take up too much of your time, but as I have been one of the individuals who have long publicly advocated migration, I cannot avoid making a few remarks now I have tried the experiment. It is an ascertained fact, that previous to the operation of the present law the extra labourers southward of Derby did not migrate northwards to meet the demand there existing; that is to say, that after a most minute investigation there was but one labourer found in the counties of Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire who had come from the south of Derby, and this was a brickmaker out of Leicestershire; so that in these hives of industry and wealth no southern labourer ever thought of entering.

Being

Migration.

Being aware of the disparity of wages in the agricultural and manufacturing districts, gave public notice in my parish about nine years since, that I was ready to send away 10 labourers to good places, as our soil was daily sinking in value from the destruction caused by poor-rates; 12 men applied, who were sent by the overseer, and the first question asked of me, was, "What beer do they give in that country you wish us to go into?" I desired them to return to their places of idleness, viz., the gravel pits, and when next I endeavoured to induce them to migrate and amend their condition, I would have another law to enable me to carry my wishes into execution. My next measure, by way of palliation, was to get a quantity (50 acres) of common ground into cultivation by spade husbandry, which I was enabled to do by the Duke of Richmond kindly assisting us by his bill, otherwise I should have been again defeated by an individual landowner in this parish, and our rates, which were already 10 *s.* in the pound, would soon have been 12 *s.* At last the change came; one year has passed since we were embodied as an Union, and I then explained to some good working labourers with large families what would be the effect of the Bill; I recommended them to migrate into the manufacturing districts, in consequence of which 19 families, about 130 souls, have migrated; generally speaking, they write in the most gratifying manner, but some of them having fallen ill of the small-pox, they have been forced to call upon us for temporary assistance. Looking, however, to the operation of migration throughout the Union, I find this to be the result: Farmers appreciate their servants far more than they did; servants value their places and get better paid; the labourers in this parish are better off than I ever saw them, although the rates have been reduced one half; and sanguine as I have always been as to the moral effect of the change upon the people, it has far exceeded my earnest expectation. I now see the boy taken out to work with the parent in the field; I see mothers remaining in their houses teaching their children to make lace, &c.; I see industry where there was idleness; I see sobriety in the place of drunkenness; I see, in short, a desire amongst the labouring classes to assist themselves, and gratitude for any kindness that may be bestowed upon them. If the poor are temperately reasoned with, I have scarcely met with one that attempts to vindicate the old system; they know the rates were prostituted to the worst of ends, and they saw but too well how many industrious people were brought to penury by the payment of them. For many years I have advocated strongly a change in the administration of the poor laws, and this I have done, not so much as regards pecuniary matters only, but as relating to the moral condition of the poor. Everything about us was paralysed by pauperism; the land was cultivated by it, the children were nursed and rocked in the parish-cradle, and mendicancy was the first thing they were instructed in, by clothing them in rags and turning them upon the high roads without restraint. The farmers said, "if we cannot manage the poor, I wonder who can;" and the overseers were so alarmed by anonymous letters and the constant dread of fire, that they dared not, in most instances, refuse a sturdy pauper's demand.

I have endeavoured to be a constant attendant at our board of guardians. All things have been discussed temperately and with good feeling, the members having nothing but the general welfare of the Union at heart. The only thing we have to regret is the size of our new workhouse; had we to build now, the board would not make it half the size, and I doubt whether any would be requisite. The house, an excellent one, will hold 500; it at present contains 113; however, if the rate-payers of the Union contrast the outgoings of last year with the preceding, they will find that a saving has been made nearly equal to the whole cost of the house. I must not, however, further trespass upon your attention; I will briefly conclude by adding, that the land is better cultivated, the labourer better paid, the children under better control, and I hope, ere many years have passed away, that the English labourer will be restored to what he was before 1796; that bees and poultry may be attended by the wife, the cottage garden cultivated in surplus hours by the husband, and we shall then have our places of worship filled with women dressed in red cloaks, the men in good coats with nosegays in their button-holes: and I am sure the general feeling will then be to help those who help themselves.

Believe me,
My dear Sir, yours most faithfully,
James Beard.

To Edwin Chadwick, Esq.

Letters inclosed with the foregoing.

Honoured Sir, Marple, 15 November, 1835.

We, the undersigned, do return our most humble and sincere thanks that are due to your honour for the kindness that you have conferred upon us, in conducting us to this place, where we safely arrived on Saturday the 31st, and we are all employed by Mr. Simpson, on his land, and our children by Mr. Clayton, in the factory, and we feel ourselves quite satisfied with our new situation, for we see a good prospect of getting a livelihood in this country, and so we have no desire to return back to Cranfield; so we do return our most grateful thanks to you, sir, and likewise to the parishioners for all favours received; and now hoping, with the blessing of the Almighty, that we shall now be able to get through this world, and prepare for another.

As to the state of our health, us three men are all perfectly well; W. Clark's wife is very poorly with a cold and change of air, and D. Solbery one child is ill and all others are well; and we return our thanks to Mr. Gardner for his kindness before we left Cranfield, for it was very good; but now we say, "No more Cranfield."

So no more from your humble and thankful servants,
Thos. Osborn,
the + of *Wm. Clark,*
the + of *Daniel Soulbrey.*

Addressed to the Rev. James Beard,
Cranfield Rectory, near Woburn, Bedfordshire.

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No. 15. Letter from Rev. *J. Beard.*

Sir,

We have had an inspector last Wednesday from London, who inspected all of us, to whom we reported that we were all well satisfied with our transportation, as it is reported in your country. Oh, that the people of Cranfield would believe what is written to them from this place, which is all the truth.

From your very thankful and humble servant,

To the Rev. Jas. Beard. *Thos. Clark.*

We, the undersigned, late inhabitants of the parish of Cranfield, in the county of Bedford, have requested Mr. Langston, one of the churchwardens, to publish our most sincere thanks to the Rev. J. Beard, the parish officers, and the inhabitants of Cranfield, for the liberal manner in which we were treated on our leaving the said over-populated parish to settle at the several places undermentioned.

We had a supply of money, our carriage paid, and houses and work ready for us on our arrival. It gives us pleasure to attest how much our circumstances are improved since we left Bedfordshire, by the increase in our earnings.

(signed)	Thos. Clark - -	6 in family, residing at Mellor.
	Thos. Wright - -	6 in family - - ditto.
	Wm. Roggers' ✝ -	4 in family - - ditto.
	Philip Pedders' ✝ -	7 in family - - ditto.
	Wm. Read - -	11 in family, residing at Marple.
	Wm. Hands - -	7 in family - - ditto.

— No. 16. —

No. 16. Letter from Rev. *H. Owen*, Chairman of Hoxne Union.

LETTER to *E. Chadwick*, Esq., from the Rev. *Henry Owen*, Rector of *Wilby, Suffolk*, and Chairman of the *Hoxne* Union, on the Operation of the Amended System of Poor Law Administration.

My dear Sir, Wilby Rectory, Stradbroke, Suffolk, July 1st, 1836.

General Results of new system.

I AM rejoiced to be enabled to return a satisfactory answer to your inquiries relative to the working of the new poor law in this Union. From the commencement of its operations here, I have indeed most carefully and anxiously watched the general effects of the measure; and I can, with truth, assure you that my predictions (favourable as they were) have fallen very far short of the cheering and advantageous results which are daily showing themselves, as the operations of the Bill become more fully developed.

In a pecuniary point of view, the effect has been very great; in proof of which I need only point out to you that the annual average expenditure in the 24 parishes of this Union, for the three years immediately preceding its formation, produces 19,904 *l.* as the sum annually disbursed in parochial relief; while the expenditure for the last two quarters of the current year (being the two expensive quarters) does not amount to 5,000 *l.*, thus showing a reduction of more than 50 per cent.; and which reduction I consider as being the more satisfactory, from the circumstance of our new workhouse not being yet completed, and of our therefore having had no really efficient test of pauperism to offer.

But the pecuniary saving is not the only nor indeed the most important benefit arising to this district from the operation of the measure. By far the most gratifying result is the marked improvement which has taken place in the general conduct of our labouring poor, and in the performance of their social and moral duties. The sudden change which seems to have been wrought upon their general feeling and habits is indeed hardly to be described, for, as one of our farmers lately observed to me, "they are not like the same men;" they are not only more industrious, more civil, but more provident and better satisfied. Now that they are no longer encouraged by the debasing influence of the old system, to eat the bread of idleness, they evince the greatest anxiety for employment, and use their best efforts to obtain it; and these efforts have proved (in this Union at least) that where there exists a wish for employment, there is still employment to be found. The groups of idle paupers which formerly infested the streets of our villages, have disappeared, and are now, to a great extent, living and supporting themselves by their own industry. I observe a growing anxiety amongst them to obtain a subsistence without any parochial assistance whatever, and I am receiving repeated proofs that many of those who were permanent paupers under the old system are at length beginning to see that the real intention of the present measure is to restore them to independence, and to redeem them from the horrible slavery into which the former system had plunged them.

r Shops.

It is not, however, from these circumstances alone that we have proofs of the beneficial operation of the Bill. The check which has been given to those dens of iniquity (the beer-shops,) and in short to all that class of persons who have been thriving on the wretchedness and misery of the labourer; the check which has thus been given to vice and crime among the lower orders, forms indeed a most important result of the measure in this Union.

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Letter from Rev. *H. Owen*, Chairman of Hoxne Union.

With respect to the beer-houses, I can assure you that our paupers formed the chief support of these nurseries of vice. In fact, one of the first discoveries made by the board of guardians of this Union, in investigating the cases that came before them, was, that most of the paupers disposed of their pay at these places, and were considerably in debt at them besides. I can myself bear testimony to the fact, that frequent applications for relief, under the old system, were made to me as a magistrate by paupers, who I afterwards ascertained had spent the greater part of the previous night at some beer-house, in drinking and gambling. I was an eye-witness of one fact of this kind, which occurred about two years ago, and which I cannot forbear mentioning: Having received private information of the gross irregularities of a certain beer-house in this district, I resolved to go and see for myself; and accordingly I took an opportunity of visiting the house in question at a late hour on a certain evening, when I found it crowded with paupers; one part of whom were drinking, and the other part sitting round a large table, upon which were a dice-box and cards; and on this occasion I recognized paupers who had actually applied to me on the very morning of the same day, to order relief for themselves and families. So abominable indeed, under the old system, was the nuisance of beer-shops in this district, that during the two years next before the formation of our Union, the magistrates convicted and fined nearly every house of this description. The result, however, of the last year (there having been one conviction only) proves that no other provision than the right execution of the present measure is required to abate the bulk of the nuisance occasioned by these establishments. So loud, indeed, at the present time, are the complaints of beer-house keepers in this district, of the falling off in their trade since the introduction of the new law, that several have already discontinued the renewal of their licences, and others, I understand, have expressed their intention of adopting a similar course.

Decrease of Crime.

As another proof also of the improvement which has taken place in the habits and morals of our labourers, I may mention the great decrease of criminal business at our magistrates' meetings. We hold one petty sessions once in every fortnight, and it constantly happens that there is no business whatever to transact; and as regards the number of commitments which now take place, I assure you that where there were 10 under the old system, there is not now one.

Notwithstanding, however, these gratifying results, the measure, at the first outset, met with the most formidable opposition on the part of the labourers. It was hardly indeed to be expected, pauperized and degraded as was their condition at this time, that they would submit to its operation without a struggle. Various falsehoods were accordingly invented, in order to defeat the measure and those who were its chief promoters. Insults, threats, and indeed every possible effort at intimidation were resorted to by the applicants for relief. Our relieving officers were at one time so seriously obstructed in the execution of their duties, that it was deemed right they should be attended by a police officer in their respective parishes; the meetings of the board of guardians were constantly interrupted by the crowds of paupers who attended (and on one occasion with clubs and bludgeons) for the avowed purpose of intimidation and disturbance; various acts of malicious injury were practised upon individual members of the board; indeed, so alarming became the aspect of things in this Union in the early part of the winter, that a resolution was passed by the board, requesting me to apply to the Secretary of State for the assistance of Metropolitan Police to protect them in the performance of their duties; the magistrates were compelled to have recourse to the most prompt and decided measures, in order to subdue the turbulence which was manifested; and such, at one time, was the degree of excitement which pervaded this district, that no less than 12 paupers were committed in the course of one week for acts of riot and insubordination.

I merely mention these facts in order to give you some idea of the degree of reformation which the present measure has effected.

I cannot conclude this communication without bearing my humble testimony to the zeal and perseverance which my brother guardians have evinced in the discharge of their duties, and which indeed have so materially conduced to the satisfactory results which have marked the progress of this Union; they have cordially co-operated with me in carrying out the measure steadily and unflinchingly; and our united efforts have been directed to enforce the important principle, that the condition of the able-bodied pauper should be less eligible than that of the hardworking independent labourer.

We are now giving no out-door relief whatever to the able-bodied, except under special circumstances; and the few applications that are made at the board show how differently the poor are beginning to regard parochial relief; for what they formerly claimed as their right and exacted by intimidation, they now receive as charity and with gratitude.

To E. Chadwick, Esq., &c. &c.
Somerset-House.

Believe me, &c. *Henry Owen*,
Chairman of Hoxne Union.

— No. 17. —

No. 17.
Report of the Rev. *T. Spencer*, Chairman of the Bath Union.

REPORT of the Rev. *Thomas Spencer*, Chairman of the *Bath* Union.

Gentlemen. 1 August 1826.

Pauperism, or the spirit of dependence upon others rather than upon our own exertions, lies at the root of most national evils, and the peculiar merit of the new poor law is the getting rid of this extensive evil gradually and peaceably. A mere legislative enactment, without

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without an apparatus to bring it gently to bear upon the victims of pauperism, or to accommodate itself to the varied circumstances of every neighbourhood, would soon involve the whole kingdom in riot and bloodshed; and if, to avoid such convulsions, all its pungent clauses were omitted, it would be as powerless to remove evil as to create a disturbance. In this large Union, containing a population of 64,000, of which Bath itself contains 50,000, it is of immense importance that every step should be first well considered, and afterwards firmly maintained. The parish of Walcot contained about 1,000 paupers, and being situated in a pauperized part of England, many of them are exceedingly depraved and resentful. The careful inquiries of relieving officers, and the directions of a board of guardians, would not be sufficient. The guardians themselves might run into the extreme of rashness on the one hand, or into the opposite extreme of timidity on the other; they might issue indiscreet and general orders affecting all the paupers at once; or they might be so backward in their movements as to be perfectly useless. Hence arises the necessity of a Central Board, which shall ensure the greatest caution, and yet cause the work to go on. With this admirable machinery the welfare of a neighbourhood does not depend upon the precarious constitution of a board of guardians, the majority of which might be violent and cause tumult, or fearful, and be useless; but will be insured by the constant superintendence of the Central Board, which, like the action of the heart in the human body, keeps up a healthful vitality in all its parts.

The Union was incorporated on the 29th of March 1836; when they were met by R. Weale, esq., one of the Assistant-Commissioners, who gave various instructions to the guardians as to the election of officers, division of the Union into districts for medical attendance, and for relieving officers. A month was given for these preliminary arrangements, during which time the payment of paupers was still in the hands of the respective overseers. In consequence of Mr. Harrington, the clerk, absconding with 800*l.* of the poor-rates of Walcot, to which parish he had been some years assistant-overseer, the Commissioners prolonged the time for commencing operations until the 1st of June, at which period all the paupers in the Union came under the care of the board. This delay gave time for consideration and discussion, and afforded an opportunity for those of the guardians who possessed a deeper insight into the subject to prove and enforce right sentiments, and convince many who had not previously had their attention called to the subject. The next step in our gradual progress was, to pay the paupers in kind instead of in money, which system indeed had already been adopted in some of the parishes. This does not please the intemperate, and the outcry against it is increased by the keepers of the beer-houses and gin-shops, whose craft is in danger; but this outcry is favourable rather than otherwise to the future progress of the Union; it is so unreasonable for a man to ask relief on the ground of perishing for want, and yet scorn wholesome bread, that those whose attention has been called to their complaints, are convinced of their injustice. The false reports, too, respecting the quality of the bread, are so easily contradicted, the credit of respectable bakers being at stake, and leading them to set the public mind at rest on that point. Thinking it would be dangerous to the peace of the city to call all the paupers before the board at Walcot workhouse, I advised the board to revise the lists by committees, and this advice was approved and acted upon. Three committees commenced operations; every parish in the Union was visited by them, and having previously invited the clergymen and the parish officers to meet them, they examined the cases of all the paupers of the parish, and wrote down the particulars, and their opinion thereon; the reports were then brought before the board, and the recommendations of the committees being adopted, the relieving officers were directed to pay the paupers according to them. The next step in the judicious arrangements of the Commissioners, was to fix a limit early in August, beyond which no relief should be given to able-bodied paupers except in a workhouse. This measure was equally safe with the former. There are very few able-bodied male paupers in the Bath Union, and all classes are nearly agreed in the propriety of refusing parochial allowance to a man who has health and strength to work; thus there is not the slightest dissatisfaction arising from it; especially as it is well known that if it should happen, which is all but impossible, that a man could not obtain work, he has at least food and lodging offered to him in the workhouse. The pauperized labourer is a trouble to the parish, to his master and to himself; he serves many masters, and is faithful to none; he looks for his maintenance partly from the parish, partly from work, and partly, in many instances, from stealing. If he could but be led to rely upon his labour only, he would be a valuable man. A pauper labourer at half price is a loss to his master; and it is proved, on the best authority, that "whilst 8*s.* paid to an independent labourer, will bring his master 10*s.*, 5*s.* paid to the pauper labourer will bring only 2*s.* 6*d.*" As to the not getting work, a man of good conduct never has this complaint to make; but whether it is impossible or not, in any particular case, for a man to obtain work, there is only one man in the world who is able to decide, and that man is himself. Only let him in real earnest enter into judgment with himself, and let the alternative be sufficiently momentous, and he will soon decide the question. Withdraw the temptation of his weekly allowance, offer him his support in the workhouse, and he will find work for himself.

With respect to able-bodied female paupers, we have as yet received no order fixing any such limit. The evil is as bad as in the other case, but it is so much more extensive, as to require more time and caution in the treatment of it. A large portion of the paupers of Bath consists of young widows, and the mothers of illegitimate children. Many of these are more deceitful, gin-drinking and vindictive than the male paupers; they are also more barefaced in the propagation of horrible falsehoods respecting the treatment of the inmates of the workhouses, giving out that they are sent abroad as slaves, thrown into the river, or into holes dug for them in the garden, &c. There has been a mistaken idea prevalent, that a

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woman can do no more than maintain herself, and that if she have a few children, an allowance must be made her for each. This has in many cases destroyed all parental and filial affection; the child soon learns that he costs his parents nothing, but that they have gained by him ever since his birth; and when his parents are aged, he in return, feeling under no obligation, makes a like gain of them, receiving in general for his father and mother 5*s.* a week, or half a labouring man's wages. I have brought to light a startling fact; that there are large numbers of idle men in Bath, who live upon the earnings of their wives. The wife takes in washing or mending, or she goes out to wash or to work, and by her own exertions supports her husband and three or four children. This sets the matter at rest as to the capability of young able-bodied widows to support their children.

There exists a very narrow boundary between legal punishment and legal charity. The magistrate in times past has ordered parish pay or a month's imprisonment, according as the overseer or the pauper got the start in obtaining the summons. The parishioners, on account of the expense, had neglected to prosecute the man as a thief; he, as a grateful return for their forbearance, summons the overseer, and obtains an order for weekly pay, thus committing a perpetual robbery upon the rate-payers. Thus it is with the mothers of illegitimate children; some persons advocate their punishment, others their pay; some make it a serious offence, others laugh at it as a trivial matter; the consequence is, such women take courage and make an impudent demand for a maintenance for their children. One woman was ordered into the workhouse a few weeks ago, with four children, one born each year for four years, and for each of which she had received 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, or 10*s.* for the whole, which is the full wages of a labourer. Nothing so destroys all feeling of shame as for women of this description to go before the magistrate as formerly, or before the guardians as at present, and ask a reward for past, and encouragement for future misconduct. I am happy to say that without much difference of opinion in our board, it was determined to offer relief to such characters only in the workhouse.

I would here notice an evil of an opposite nature. Advantage has been taken of the workhouse by pregnant women, both married and single, who have taken up their abode in it during their confinement. A young woman applied to the board a few weeks since for permission to enter the workhouse, and to remain until after her confinement. She had some months to wait, and her application was refused, at least till her time should draw near. There was a doubt expressed by some of the guardians as to our power to refuse similar cases, but if encouragement be given to them, the workhouse will be turned into a lying-in hospital. It is strange that there are persons to defend the fitness of a workhouse for such applicants, and these same persons have insisted upon the unfitness of it when offered by the board; they can be so ignorant or malevolent as to call it a prison, a dungeon, a cemetery for the living, slavery, &c., although they must be aware that none go in by compulsion, and that any person, on giving three hours' notice, can come out.

The next class is that of the aged paupers. Respecting these, no directions have been given, or limit assigned. There is great scope for the exercise of discretion and compassion; at the same time the public feeling is far from correct on this head. In fact on no class does the public mind require enlightening so much as on that of pauperized old age. Leaving out as exceptions the afflicted and bedridden, the characteristics of the aged pauper are dirty and intemperate habits; begging and stealing to add to his parish pay; a discontented spirit, the result of an ill-spent life; wherever he goes he affords a living demonstration that youth may be profligate and manhood improvident, and yet old age be equally well provided for at the public cost. What effect will this have upon the man who is diligent in his business, in order that he may prepare for a time of need, sickness and old age? He cultivates his allotment of land in his leisure hours, spares a little of his earnings for the savings bank or the friendly society; but will he thus sow in spring in order to reap in harvest, if he finds that those who do not sow at all may come and take a share in the harvest of their neighbours? These aged paupers not only set an example of want of care and forethought, but by their conversation and their pay-table anecdotes, they disseminate bad principles wherever they go. I was astonished a few days ago at the sentiments of an able-bodied labourer of this parish, who is what is called a *ranter*, and makes great profession of religion; "I get into debt all I can, and intend to do so wherever any one will trust me, because it is God Almighty's will that we should be all made comfortable; every man has a right to be made comfortable out of the land on which he was born." This man had for some years excited my surprise by not accepting an allotment of land, although more than 60 men in the parish had their allotments; but this circumstance led me to recollect that the man had an aged father, who has been for 20 years a pauper, and that he had an uncle a pauper, besides other relatives.

The bad effect produced upon society is not all; my feelings as a christian minister would lead me to wish the aged pauper to enter a workhouse for his own sake. Before he quits this world to appear at the judgment seat of Heaven, to give an account of his stewardship, and of the deeds done in the body, I could wish to see him removed from those haunts of vice, and of uproarious drunkenness, with which pauper life is so familiar. He is tied and bound with the chains of ancient habits, and will not voluntarily be set free. Rather than be washed, shaved, have his hair cut and put on clean linen, many a pauper has gone away from the workhouse as he came, a heap of filth and wretchedness. And as to meditation and devotion, everything is unfavourable to him. Nine-tenths of the paupers never enter a place of worship. For his own sake, therefore, it is extremely desirable, if he demands a maintenance at the public charge, that the terms prescribed should be an admission into the workhouse, where the regulations favour a recovery from bad habits; where wholesome food, unaccompanied by intoxicating liquor, regular washing, decent apparel, daily prayers

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and sermons, at least on Sundays, should draw his attention to the serious realities of his situation. If he have refused "six days to labour," and by the sweat of his face to eat his own bread; if he has despised the command to "owe no man anything," but to "provide things honest in the sight of all men;" if he has despised his one talent and hid it in a napkin; if by being burthensome to society he has been a barren fig-tree cumbering the ground; the sooner he comes to himself and sees the low estate in which his folly and vices have brought him, the better it is for himself. This, however, is called cruelty to poor old people! An old pauper of this parish, 84 years of age, refuses to reside in the workhouse; there are ladies in Bath who encourage him and give him a weekly allowance. His case has been twice before the commissioners and once before the board of guardians; nothing, however, will satisfy the ladies who have taken up his case; and yet I have offered to furnish proof from the man's own companions, that with the charitable allowances of these ladies he gets drunk every night! Some of the arguments alleged against permitting old persons to suffer any inconvenience on account of their past follies, literally savour of infidelity, and condemn the justice of God in denouncing an eternal punishment for the wicked hereafter.

General operation of the amended system.

With respect to the separation of the sexes, we have had only one case of complaint, and this was of a man who had been separated from his wife under the old system, and who lived several years in the workhouse of St. James's. In every well-regulated workhouse under the old system, and also on the Continent and in the United States, this rule has invariably been adopted; common decency requires it. The most disgusting immorality has been the consequence where it has not been enforced. In the workhouse of Hinton parish before the Union was formed, it was the joint request of all the women that they might live entirely separate from all the men. All the poor of this parish are now, however, removed to Bath, except two bedridden persons; it was attempted to allow some of them their pay at home, but the jealousy it excited amongst the rest, and the charge of partiality, rendered it necessary to decide that no pauper in this parish shall be relieved except in a workhouse; and to this state I have no doubt other country villages will soon desire to come; it is the only way to secure peace in a place. Whilst speaking of my own village, I may state, that of the 100 paupers formerly living on the rates, there are now only 10; and with the exception of three or four discontented women, the remaining 90 are busily employed, and are looking better in health and neater in appearance than formerly. There is no fear of a redundant population, there is not a single illegitimate child born within the last 12 months, nor a single improvident marriage; wages are rising; the farmers have at their disposal several hundred pounds which they formerly paid in poor-rates; they, therefore, employ more labourers, and I hear that it will be necessary again to raise the wages, lest the number of labourers in the place should not be sufficient for the demand.

Having touched upon the various classes of paupers, I may be permitted, I trust, to lay before the board such thoughts as have occurred to me during our proceedings. I wish to do this with the becoming deference due to your superior judgment and means of ascertaining what is best, but, at the same time, with freedom, as being one of those means by which you invite information.

Averages.

1. I fear that the system of taking the parochial averages of the three years previous to the formation of the Union leaves an opening to injustice. The conscientious parish officers will deliver to the assistant commissioner a full report of their expenditure; whilst parish officers of less integrity will leave out many important sums. As to the time allowed for the inspection of the parish-books by the commissioners, it is insufficient for the careful examination of the books of one large parish, much more for the whole of the parishes. What would you think of a parish of 750 inhabitants paying to the general expenses of the Union more by 214 *l.* a year than a wealthier parish containing 2,400 persons; especially if it appear that the latter parish is charged to the county-rate much more than the former? The only means of securing fairness for all is, as soon as possible to treat the whole Union as if it were one parish, to adopt one system of rating and of collecting rates for the whole of it.

Officers.

2. In the commencement of our Union we found a great want of candidates for offices who were in any degree acquainted with the new system. Our clerk and three relieving officers were each of them assistant overseers of various parishes under the old system. It seems desirable that there should be a place of training to which such officers might be sent for a few days before they enter upon their duties, and that their election should be void unless they could bring back with them a certificate of their fitness. It would render the working of new Unions much more safe and uniform. The offices of clerk, auditor, relieving officer and governor of the workhouse, require this careful training.

Want of instruction of Guardians.

3. There are excellent rules sent down for the guidance of a board of guardians, yet the great thing wanted is sound principles. Every large board will contain some that understand and adopt the principles of the new poor law; others that understand something of the old, but nothing of the new; and a third set that understand neither. Their votes will of course be guided by their judgment, and if every guardian were presented with a manual setting forth the real nature of pauperism,—the mischief threatened by it, if not arrested,—explaining the workhouse system, and how salutary as a test to the impostor and as a home for real distress, then there would be a number of men hearty in the cause and understanding the tendency of what they do; they would see the importance of the central board, that thus imparted to them a portion of its own intelligence, and then guided them in the application of it. It is true there are pamphlets and poor law reports, but it is surprising to find how few read a report of any length, and how few ever dream of purchasing any work on the subject.

4. I have

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4. I have perceived the want of a suitable advertising medium; an advertisement for a clerk (for example) is lost in one of the daily morning papers. If there were a poor law gazette, a parochial union advertiser, it would not only afford a known medium for offices vacant and persons wanting such offices, but it would be a vehicle for the communication of valuable intelligence respecting the working of the various Unions; for answers to all interested outcry against the poor law; for any information that may bear upon the welfare of the poor and the working classes; especially such as facilitated the formation of self-supporting institutions. Such an organ under the patronage and control of the Commissioners, but open to such communications from all quarters as might be deemed worthy of a place in it, would, in my opinion, be of great service to the public; it would probably be read by every guardian, and remove that greatest of all evils, ignorance.

Want of an organ of Communication.

5. There is nothing at present to prevent the enemies of the new poor law from becoming guardians; and there are many cases at this moment in different parts of England of persons allowing themselves to be elected with the express purpose of defeating the object for which the Union was formed, and of disobeying the orders of the Poor Law Commissioners. Passing over the dishonesty of such enemies in the camp, it appears to have arisen from the want of a suitable declaration to be made by each guardian before he is allowed to take his seat at the board. Something to this effect should be declared and signed: "I, A. B., do declare my intention faithfully to execute the office of a guardian; to obey the lawful orders of the Commissioners, and, as far as in me lies, to promote the object and end of the new poor law."

Declaration by Guardians.

6. I think time and money have been sacrificed by the Bath Union, in common with others, in having taken old workhouses into their use, and then, finding they were not suitable, having to build new ones. It would more conduce to economy, discipline and comfort, if the Commissioners had the power to order a new workhouse to be at once commenced, and the old ones sold by the parishes to which they belong. We could obtain land for 360 *l.*, and build a house to contain 500 paupers for 5,000 *l.*; whereas the two present workhouses only contain 400, are valued to the Union as follows;

Provision of Workhouses.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Walcot workhouse - - - - - -	5,200	–	–
St. James's workhouse - - - - -	2,200	–	–
Alterations required at Walcot - - -	1,000	–	–
Ditto, at St. James's - - - - -	1,600	–	–
£.	10,000	–	–

The present workhouses are in densely populated parts of the town, and one of them in the main street; it has, therefore, been determined to erect a house outside the town.

7. As far as I can judge, there appears a want of power of punishing parochial fraud. Private persons cannot be expected to do this at their own cost. A public prosecutor, acting under the direction of the central board, would be of vast service. A person of Hinton, who paid our distant paupers, pretended to pay a widow woman at Bristol 3*s.* 6*d.* a week for five years; and by the woman's statement before the magistrates, and the man's own confession, he only paid 1*s.* 6*d.* a week, thus defrauding the parish of more than 20 *l.* The man signed a promise to pay, but has since refused, suspecting, I believe, that we have no power, as a parish, to compel him.

Fraud.

8. There is still a great opening to fraud in the cases of paupers residing out of the Union. We have had applications for the continuance of pay to paupers residing at Plymouth, Portsmouth, Frome, London, &c. If able-bodied paupers apply, the law might easily require them to make application in the Union in which they have resided the last 12 months; but in sick and bedridden cases, if every Union took charge of all extreme cases within itself, not capable of removal, the expense incurred in one case would be counterbalanced by diminished expense in another, and the opening to imposition from suspended orders, medical charges, and journies, would be removed.

Non-resident Paupers.

9. If the present attendance of respectable men at the meetings of the board is to continue, all control over their proceedings, except the paternal control of the central board, must be done away. The overseers and churchwardens still possess power to order out of the poor-rates food and medical attendance in extreme cases; and in course of time, experience has shown, that all cases will be made extreme cases. It ought to be the duty to inform the relieving officer, and then leave the matter in his hands. The power of individual magistrates to interfere has in a few instances been very perplexing and discouraging to the board. The board consists of 41 elected guardians and eight county magistrates, and amongst our number are four clergymen, four military and naval officers, four gentlemen of the legal and medical professions, and the rest private gentlemen, tradesmen and farmers; many of whom had served the offices of churchwarden and overseer. The sittings of the board are frequently prolonged from eleven o'clock in the morning till six in the evening, and a laborious attention is given to the cases which come before the board; if, after a man's case has thus passed through the hands of the relieving officer, a committee, and lastly the board,—the man, if not satisfied with the decision, which, if a bad fellow, he will certainly not be, may go before one or two magistrates, and have the decision of the board reversed,—then will all honourable and intelligent men soon throw up the affair in disgust. The testimony of T. Walker, esq., a police magistrate of the metropolis, does honour to him; he says, "It would be extremely unfitting to submit men freely elected by their fellow citizens to the control of individual

Control of Guardians.

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magistrates; a feeling of independence is absolutely necessary to the manly discharge of public duty; any system of interference is a mockery of freedom, childish in conception, arbitrary and debasing in effect." Let the responsibility be upon the board of guardians, under the guidance of the Commissioners, and all will work well. We have almost every week to consult the central Board, and their communications are invariably received with the greatest interest and respect. This control we covet, and could wish its power greater; for we feel no power over us but the power to do good. We complain of a want of power in them; but there is no inducement whatever for them to make an arbitrary use of power. It would neither promote their interest nor their popularity. We want full authority for all our proceedings when right, and a check if wrong; and the thought of such a power above us is our comfort and our stay; we look to it as to our compass and our anchor; and in every difficulty, whether arising from ignorance or inexperience, or from party spirit within the board, or popular excitement without, we should immediately appeal to them for direction and information, and, if necessary, for the exercise of their authority. As to the senseless outcry of the expense of the new poor law, one parish in our Union has already saved more than 20*l.* a week, or 1,000*l.* a year, in its expenditure, and the savings of the whole Union would several times over pay the expenses of the Assistant Commissioner, who has so often, and with so much good effect, attended at our meetings; and I should conceive that the saving of all the Unions of one large county would pay all the expenses of the whole commission, with all its officers and servants. Can this objection be honestly made?

I should be glad to think that any of the above observations may be thought useful by you. My desire is to see the poor law perfect and permanent; every day makes me more desirous of its universal application; and it is a pleasure to me to remove any obstacles out of the way. I have, &c. *Thomas Spencer*,

Chairman to the Board of Guardians of the Bath Union.

— No. 18. —

LETTERS to *E. W. Head*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, on the System of Parochial Apprenticeship. Communicated by Mr. *Head*.

1.—From Rev. *Thomas T. Lewis*, Clergyman of Aymestry.

No. 18. Letters on Parochial Apprenticeship.

Rev. *T. E. Lewis*.

My dear Sir, Aymestry Vicarage, near Leominster, 6 June 1836.

I should have written to you earlier than this on the subject of the working of the apprentice system, if I could have obtained the information you wished with as much ease as I expected when I had the pleasure of seeing you at Aymestry.

At this season of the year, the people engaged in field work, or in the woods, are very much scattered about, and are not very easily to be met with; and it appeared to me very desirable not only to question the masters and mistresses on the subject, but also the parents of the children, where it could be done. The delay has afforded me opportunities of hearing the opinion of many on the subject, and all I find corroborative of the ill-working of the system in this immediate neighbourhood.

From an examination of the apprentice register of this parish from the year 1820, which is the only one I have seen, the children seem to have been placed out in no general order of time, but rather at the caprice of the parish officers.

Thus I find in the years—

1820	1	1829	3
1821	23	1830	11
1822	2	1831	0
1823	3	1832	0
1824	4	1833	4
1825	6	1834	2
1826	2	1835	0
1827	0		
1828	3	Total	64

The term of apprenticeship has been until 17, with the exception of one bound until 21, and two until 18 years of age.

With the view of saving the expense of indentures, and of saving trouble in getting rid of a child if he should turn out badly, the practice of taking children without indentures, and considering them in the place of apprentices, has very much obtained in this parish. The girls are bound to learn housewifery. One case I find in which husbandry is substituted for housewifery; but this I conclude a mistake of the clerk. Too often, however, the girls are employed almost altogether at field work; and a few days since I heard of a very bad case (not, however, in this parish), in which the girl was employed on all occasions at common out-doors work of every description, up to the very termination of her apprenticeship.

In the register of the above 64 children, there are no less than 79 copies of indentures, on which 10 fines have been received from masters, all proprietors, and, with the exception of one, non-resident, assessed in a 1*s.* rate at the following sums:

£. 204	3 fines.
97	2 ditto.
23	2 ditto.
11	2 ditto.
3	1 ditto.

Whilst

Whilst masters assessed at—

£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	
9	11	29	32	40	110	Have each had one apprentice in the same time.
9	12	—	37	55	—	
10	15	—	—	60	—	
—	15	—	—	—	—	

At 16*l.*, 18*l.*, 33*l.*, 52*l.*, 55*l.*, 55*l.*, 107*l.*, two each.
At 74*l.*, 131*l.*, 139*l.*, three each.
At 170*l.*, 192*l.*, four each.

Showing great inequality and unfairness in the allotment. The impression, whether right or not, is, that they who are able to pay fines should have apprentices allotted at least as often, if not more frequently, than they who are assessed in the same sums, and have the trouble of keeping them in their own houses; but notwithstanding the above irregularity in the allotment of the children, I do not think that the charge of intentionally pouncing upon a proprietor for the sake of a fine can be made out against the officers of this parish; and indeed, I am sure that if our register had been tabled in such a way as to show upon inspection the number of children which had been allotted to each master, and the sums in which they are respectively assessed, no such irregularity in the exaction of fines, or the distribution of the children, would have been allowed.

Of these 64 children, I find one, for whom a fine had been received, afterwards apprenticed to a tailor in the adjoining parish, with a premium of 12*l.*, until he is 18 years of age: one case of short servitude on account of ill health: two cases only which can be reported very good, their services having been retained in their old places after the expiration of the term of apprenticeship: 23 cases which seem to have deserved fair characters; but most of these, instead of remaining the whole period, were allowed to leave their places (masters and children equally well satisfied with the change) a year or two before the expiration of the term: 11 cases of bad conduct, in which the masters had the indentures cancelled, or discharged the apprentice, or the apprentice ran away: one case of a boy's transportation for robbery of his master: seven cases in which the master had compounded with the child's parents to keep it at home, for a small weekly payment, continued only for a short time, or for some other consideration; in one instance, a small quantity of potato-ground for one year: 11 other cases, in which, from the neglect of overseers to deliver the children, the objections of masters to receive a child from a notorious family, or of the parents to allow their children to go to the places reputed bad, there had been no servitude: and eight of which I can hear nothing, the master and apprentice, and their families, having removed away.

The above appears to me evidence of the bad working of the present system; but it need not surprise any one who reflects on the condition of the children who are generally placed out in this manner; brought up in ignorance and idleness, they are not likely to be very acceptable inmates in families; and amongst the parents' charges of complaint, I find ill treatment from master, mistresses and fellow servants; and although no gross case within this parish has come to my knowledge, I know of several in which I have reason to believe the too common complaint of insufficiency of clothing, unkindness, and an undue severity in the correction of venial faults.

The system of apprenticing children brought up in workhouses, after they are taught to read and write, and are fairly disciplined in habits of order, obedience and industry, must be, as I am informed it is, a very different thing; such a one seems indeed a humane way of disposing of them; but the abuse of the system in this neighbourhood is very deeply and extensively rooted; not, however, beyond the power of correction. I feel satisfied that under the management of a judicious board of guardians, where the child's interest would be naturally protected, a fair system of placing them out strictly regarded, and in which parents and children would find a fair hearing of their complaints, the evils, great as they are, would soon be corrected. At the same time, instead of this being left to the discretion of any board, it would afford me great pleasure to hear that the Poor Law Commissioners had made a rule imperative, that no child brought up in the workhouse, under a certain age, and who had not been taught to read and write, and whose character stood fair for habits of industry, and obedience, and respect for truth, should be apprenticed out of it.

The above letter is at your service in any way you think proper to use it, either with or without my name; and if you think it of any assistance towards the correction of the present miserable system, which indeed I regard as little better than slavery, the trouble I have had in getting the particulars together will be fully compensated.

To E. W. Head, Esq.,
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Yours, &c.
Thos. T. Lewis.

2.—From Rev. *W. Evans*, Vice-Chairman of *Weobley* Board.

My dear Sir, 7 June, 1836.

Rev. *W. Evans*.

The system of apprenticing, as worked in this neighbourhood, appears to me, as far as I have been able to trace its effects, to have acted injuriously in three ways. It has, in the first place, been attended with very pernicious results on the characters and dispositions of the apprentices; it has, in the next place, had a bad effect upon the conduct of the parents; and lastly, it has been perverted into a very unequal tax, pressing unfairly and disproportionately upon the lesser rate-payers.

With regard to the first position, the injurious effects upon the characters and dispositions of the apprentices themselves, it is difficult to conceive how any other consequences could result from a system which, at the very outset, crushes and tramples upon that spirit of inde-

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Rev. *W. Evans.*

pendence from which all industry must spring. It has been the custom in this neighbourhood to assist the able-bodied labourers with families, by the payment of rent. The names of the children in the families thus relieved, who were fit to go out, were consequently put down in the list of apprentices.

When the different situations were allotted, the child was brought from his parents and bound as a parish apprentice, to a person, in nine cases out of ten, very unwilling to receive him.

The whole conduct of the business had the effect of at once and entirely branding this child as a pauper. The parish officer was the principal agent; the child was stigmatized by the name of a parish apprentice, and with this title was introduced into the family of his master. The contract being compulsory on both parties, it has followed, as a not unnatural consequence, that both parties have set to work in a perfectly conflicting spirit. The child, at the instigation of his parents, enters upon his service, or rather his bondage, with a dogged resolution to do as little as he can, and to consume as much as he can: the master, on the other part, receives his apprentice as a necessary evil, of which he must make the best, and, therefore, with a determination to get all the work possible from the apprentice with the least expense. A connexion commenced in such a spirit is not likely to terminate to the advantage of either. The child's character assumes a sullen doggedness and obstinacy not natural to it; his work consequently is done in a heedless and careless spirit; he has no motive to improve, no ambition to excel. Even where the master receives him with a proper feeling of kindness and good intentions, the servants step in to mar all the good effects which might result from those good intentions.

The parish apprentice is looked upon by them as one under bondage. Every one may tyrannize over him; every one may work and abuse him; every case of neglect is laid at his door. In his own defence he assumes an insolence and sullenness of manner, a carelessness of either praise or blame, followed by a reckless disregard of character, which affects his whole future prospects. The other servants can leave at the expiration of their year, if not well-treated; but he is bound to bear and suffer all, without the chance of escape. A thousand instances of ill-treatment may occur, which a hired servant would not tolerate, but in which the apprentice can obtain no redress. He is in bondage, and his lot is, to bear and suffer. What can be expected from the future exertions of the man whose career has commenced under such circumstances? from the independent feelings of one who has thus, at the very time when the mind takes its bent, been consigned to a state of forced and unavoidable dependence? He commences life as a pauper; when his term of bondage is ended, he disappears perhaps for a season, but in a few years appears again under an order of removal, with a wife and family; continues a pauper to the day of his death, leaving others to inherit the same miserable dependence. I saw only the other day the demoralizing effect of the apprenticing system, under circumstances as favourable as possible. An orphan girl was apprenticed to a very excellent woman, who spared no pains to instruct her, treating her with the greatest kindness and attention. On the death of her mistress she was continued by the successors in the farm, but her sullenness and obstinacy were such that they would not keep her in the house; she left the family, and has availed herself of her liberty, by never continuing two months in the same place, constantly returning to be provided for by the parish.

Those who have ever witnessed the kind of pride and satisfaction felt by a young boy or girl on their first hiring, even when the wages promised will not defray the expense of clothing, can estimate at once how much good feeling is sacrificed by the compulsory contract.

In your new poor law regulations your great aim is to restore that feeling of independence which the old system was so effectually destroying; but while you permit the system of apprenticing to be continued, you are undoing with the one hand what you are doing with the other, crushing in infancy the germs of that very feeling which, in after life, it is your great object to promote.

What I have said may not altogether apply to the cases of those illegitimate or orphan children which are necessarily dependent on the parish; but these, if possible, go out under circumstances of still greater mental degradation. Helpless and friendless, they are objects upon whom all bad temper and bad feeling may be vented with impunity, and at the very outset of life the spirit is broken. You may, in some degree, judge of the spirit in which apprentices are generally received from the following circumstance: One of the most considerable residents in a neighbouring parish had an apprentice allotted to him, a girl; she was never, I believe, allowed to come under his roof, but her board and lodging were paid for at the public-house, while the person to whom she was allotted offered her to different persons with the promise of a premium, among others, particularly, to a person keeping a public-house; at length a man, holding something under 20 acres of land in another parish, was prevailed upon by the prospect of a few pounds to receive her; and there she went for a bondage of so many years, without a prospect of being improved or instructed in any way, the magistrates consenting to the transfer of the indentures. If any independent feeling, or any good feeling of any kind, should survive this usage, it is at least more than we have any right to anticipate.

But the evil does not end here: the system, as adverted to in the second place, affects both parent and child. If a man had to depend alone upon the hiring system for getting his children off his hands, he would feel at once the value of character, the necessity of a good name both to himself and child; he would see that in proportion as his children were neglected or badly brought up, with a bad example before them, the difficulty of getting them off his hands would be tenfold increased. As long as he is assured that his children, whether with a good or bad name, will be put out, so long, as far as respects his children, the motives for the preservation of a good character, and for parental attention, will be removed.

Under

Under the voluntary system of hiring, the children might not go out quite so early; but the parents would feel the necessity of bringing up their children with a view of making them useful: the children would go out into life without the weight of that moral degradation which is attached to a system of bondage; they would go into service as they should go, with a feeling that all depended upon their own industry and exertion; and their employers would find it their interest to use them better.

The evil next in order, viz., the inequality of the tax on the rate-payers, is, we may say, little in comparison with those evils just described; but still it is an evil and an abuse, and one which demands redress. The custom here is to allot an apprentice to every rate-payer occupying a certain quantity of land, and to every one, let him occupy ever so little, whose circumstances are such as to enable him to maintain an apprentice. If, for instance, you allot an apprentice to a man occupying 40 or 50 acres, you cannot allot to another holding 200 acres in proportion, or you would drive him out of his house; even here, then, the pressure is unequal; but when you allot an apprentice to a small rate-payer on consideration of means not rateable, you at once make your system a tax on property, which the law never intended to be subjected to such tax.

This is only one out of the many indirect ways by which the lesser rate-payer, under the old system, contributed to the payment of wages for the greater. The system of paying rents, and apprenticing children, have been the two methods generally adopted in the parishes of this county to effect that end.

In one parish the farmers have, with great disinterestedness, consented to relieve themselves of the onus of a bound apprentice, by taking the children, with an allowance of 1*s.* per week for their maintenance from the poor-rate.

I will now only add, that the whole system of apprenticing appears to me, on the above grounds, totally opposed to the spirit and intention of the new poor law regulations, and that I hope soon to witness its entire abolition.

To E. W. Head, Esq. I remain, &c. *W. E. Evans,*
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner. Vice-Chairman of the Weobley Union.

— No. 19. —

Correction of Statements in the Publication entitled, "*Extracts from the Information received by His Majesty's Commissioners, as to the Administration and Operation of the Poor Laws.* Published, by Authority, 1833." Communicated by Mr. *Boulton.*

Mr. Okeden, in his report of Oxfordshire, p. 109, states, in the notice of Duns Tew, that the parish belongs almost entirely to Mr. Boulton; and this mistake, coupled with the allusion to the attention which is well known to have been paid to the concerns of the poor, and the excellence of the labourers' habitations on the estate of that individual, leads naturally to the inference that the other details in the notice apply to the parish and property of Mr. Boulton. But these are situate at Great Tew, a distinct parish, distant about four miles, of which the Rev. Charles Dayman is the incumbent. As referable to it, Mr. Okeden's comments and notes are incorrect in the subjoined important particulars, the errors creating an impression that the endeavour of Mr. Boulton, in conjunction with his tenants, to improve the management of the poor had been ineffective. Such, however, will not be thought to be the case, when by the side of Mr. Okeden's report of a parish, selected as an example of the mitigated evils of the poor law administration, the following results of the management of the poor in Great Tew parish are enumerated:

1. The amount expended on the poor upon an average of three years, ending 1833, has been 362*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* per annum. In the report of Duns Tew, the annual expenditure is quoted at 683*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*

2. The baneful practice of roundsmen has been discontinued. In the report stated to be in full operation.

3. The poor's-rate, on the amount of the rack-rent, falls short of 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. In the report noted at 6*s.* in the pound.

4. At no period of the year has any able-bodied labourer, willing to work, been left without remunerative employment. In the report stated to be numerous, nearly one-fifth of the persons receiving relief.

N.B.—The population of Great Tew, 496; Duns Tew, 450.

To Mr. Okeden's commendatory remark on the cottages, it may be proper to add that embellishment was not Mr. Boulton's only motive to their erection; a more powerful one was to excite and keep alive emulation, by enabling the industrious and skilful labourer to enjoy from his earnings the comforts of a cheerful, convenient habitation, and, with a few exceptions, the incentive has not been inoperative.

It would be injustice to omit noting that Mr. Boulton has experienced from the neighbouring magistrate, Colonel Perrott, and occasionally from his more distant colleagues, the aid and countenance of their authority in support of the measures pursued by him.

Appendix (D.)

STATISTICAL TABLES.

No. 1.—ABSTRACT of RETURNS, showing the Amount of Money Levied by Assessment for Poor's Rate and County Rate in each County in the Payments made for the Relief of the Poor, the Sums expended in Suits of Law, Removal of Paupers, &c., the Sums expended in County Rate,

YEAR ENDED 25TH MARCH 1835.

COUNTIES.	TOTAL Money Levied.	Expended for the Relief of the Poor.	Expended in Suits of Law, in Removals, &c.	Payments for or towards the County Rate.	Expended for all other Purposes.	Total of Parochial Rates Expended.	Increase per Cent.	*Decrease per Cent.
	£. s.	£. s.	£. s.	£. s.	£. s.	£. s.		
Bedford	79,779 11	66,445 11	1,160 5	4,358 8	5,864 6	77,828 10	-	15
Berks	109,304 14	86,435 –	2,258 11	8,818 15	11,597 7	109,109 13	-	14
Buckingham	131,760 6	106,100 3	3,117 2	7,730 9	12,542 17	129,490 11	-	15
Cambridge	108,678 2	86,453 19	2,918 15	8,810 6	10,561 6	108,744 6	-	10
Chester	127,445 5	81,211 4	5,851 19	20,399 12	17,228 19	124,691 14	-	12
Cornwall	111,170 14	84,534 15	3,450 13	8,452 17	11,913 15	108,352 –	-	9
Cumberland	54,396 15	38,966 8	1,857 3	8,651 16	5,130 6	54,605 13	-	10
Derby	93,392 19	62,885 15	3,442 10	12,652 9	13,818 7	92,799 1	-	14
Devon	231,766 6	189,917 3	6,251 2	15,188 12	18,051 11	229,408 8	-	10
Dorset	94,915 15	76,091 3	2,065 4	9,058 4	6,999 2	94,213 13	-	10
Durham	96,491 1	72,197 2	4,221 4	9,107 16	9,167 3	94,693 5	-	9
Essex	260,424 5	210,045 16	7,318 13	18,253 14	23,716 5	259,334 8	-	12
Gloucester	177,858 14	130,156 3	5,127 14	14,853 10	21,634 7	171,771 14	-	19
Hereford	59,596 6	48,033 –	1,224 8	5,436 10	5,480 10	60,174 8	-	15
Hertford	95,190 12	70,997 17	1,949 3	9,465 13	12,187 2	94,599 15	-	17
Huntingdon	42,098 12	31,254 17	846 1	4,359 11	3,967 18	40,428 7	-	13
Kent	370,718 19	297,098 6	12,371 3	24,790 2	47,742 18	382,002 9	-	14
Lancaster	378,946 14	222,059 10	11,625 2	68,827 9	64,888 3	367,400 4	-	12
Leicester	116,083 –	83,986 10	3,808 9	16,883 9	12,091 1	116,769 9	-	17
Lincoln	207,367 2	146,057 15	7,749 8	26,749 10	25,855 11	206,412 4	-	9
Middlesex	754,660 17	483,041 16	14,685 3	64,588 10	187,044 18	749,360 7	-	17
Monmouth	32,669 5	23,804 11	1,325 7	5,551 5	2,856 7	33,537 10	-	14
Norfolk	327,050 –	273,425 2	8,083 14	16,469 11	29,322 5	327,300 12	-	11
Northampton	144,112 4	118,842 6	2,497 13	9,332 2	13,122 19	143,795 –	-	15
Northumberland	87,054 6	68,405 –	3,337 6	9,052 5	6,775 11	87,570 2	-	5
Nottingham	92,912 6	55,182 7	3,387 5	21,190 19	13,824 –	93,584 11	-	16
Oxford	129,482 5	106,640 9	2,258 18	8,482 7	11,694 15	129,076 9	-	12
Rutland	11,616 5	8,183 10	238 4	1,112 8	1,958 15	11,492 17	-	9
Salop	94,977 9	73,038 13	3,143 7	13,462 2	7,266 17	96,910 19	-	11
Somerset	197,956 13	154,442 18	5,298 –	18,905 11	21,080 2	199,726 11	-	12
Southampton	211,826 17	174,418 2	4,324 12	15,799 2	22,251 5	216,793 1	-	14
Stafford	132,939 18	104,245 10	5,734 10	5,032 17	20,829 –	135,841 17	-	13
Suffolk	270,108 18	224,093 11	6,777 11	20,102 19	19,775 4	270,749 5	-	9
Surrey	321,359 4	225,120 3	6,772 12	21,677 15	71,020 7	324,590 17	-	14
Sussex	262,994 16	210,701 8	6,656 8	14,444 8	30,937 5	262,739 9	-	15
Warwick	173,210 4	138,629 19	5,010 8	17,910 19	22,092 2	183,643 8	-	12
Westmorland	26,536 14	20,056 19	325 3	3,723 2	2,036 19	26,142 3	-	10
Wilts	198,038 6	161,448 16	3,227 9	13,813 1	15,887 11	194,376 17	-	7
Worcester	94,461 6	68,887 8	2,543 14	11,960 13	10,589 2	93,980 17	-	16
York, East Riding	115,982 15	81,264 12	4,248 2	23,121 3	10,081 –	118,714 17	-	11
— North Riding	91,984 14	68,861 1	2,999 6	12,915 3	7,888 6	92,663 16	-	9
— West Riding	310,111 6	226,425 –	9,962 18	36,249 1	39,675 –	312,311 19	-	10
Totals of England, £.	7,029,432 –	5,260,086 18	191,451 19	667,745 15	908,448 4	7,027,732 16	-	13
WALES:								
Anglesey	20,093 17	15,050 10	1,052 9	1,895 6	2,002 12	20,000 17	-	3
Brecon	23,110 5	16,575 9	581 2	3,345 17	1,638 15	22,141 3	-	13
Cardigan	21,642 19	17,244 19	716 15	1,796 15	1,904 13	21,663 2	-	7
Carmarthen	40,032 4	31,714 19	1,465 14	3,708 19	2,594 8	39,484 –	-	6
Carnarvon	25,660 5	19,077 10	1,081 8	3,166 2	2,148 15	25,473 15	-	5
Denbigh	41,242 8	31,668 6	832 4	4,966 –	3,980 15	41,447 5	-	4
Flint	24,215 12	17,477 4	1,169 10	3,276 16	2,441 19	24,365 9	-	11
Glamorgan	46,953 18	36,724 17	1,336 11	4,802 15	4,228 12	47,092 15	-	9
Merioneth	17,188 4	14,216 7	341 13	1,528 7	890 –	16,976 7	-	5
Montgomery	40,503 13	31,945 2	883 8	4,952 3	2,162 13	39,943 6	-	7
Pembroke	29,345 3	23,118 14	1,300 14	2,623 16	2,326 18	29,370 2	-	10
Radnor	14,386 13	11,516 17	313 17	1,902 13	593 10	14,326 17	-	12
Totals of Wales £.	344,375 1	266,330 14	11,075 5	37,965 9	26,913 10	342,284 18	-	7
Totals of England and Wales £.	7,373,807 1	5,526,417 12	202,527 4	705,711 4	935,361 14	7,370,017 14	-	13

* These calculations refer to the sums expended for the relief of the poor only.

Appendix (D.)

STATISTICAL TABLES.

England and *Wales*, in the Years ended 25th March 1835 and 1836 respectively; also the Amount of Money Expended in the same Period; distinguishing and the Sums expended for all other Purposes; specifying the Rate of Increase or Decrease in each Year, as compared with the Year preceding.

YEAR ENDED 25TH MARCH 1836.

TOTAL of Money Levied.	Expended for the Relief of the Poor.	Expended in Suits of Law, in Removals, &c.	Payments for or towards the County Rate.	Expended for all other Purposes.	Total of Parochial Rates Expended.	Increase per Cent.	*Decrease per Cent.	COUNTIES.
£. s.	£. s.	£. s.	£. s.	£. s.	£. s.			
56,071 2	46,524 9	734 11	3,698 19	3,088 4	54,046 3	- -	30	Bedford.
86,120 7	65,342 12	2,001 6	5,680 11	9,699 16	82,724 5	- -	24	Berks.
94,298 6	74,436 2	2,175 11	7,602 12	8,118 6	92,332 11	- -	30	Buckingham.
93,805 14	74,808 4	2,413 –	9,072 6	8,273 –	94,566 10	- -	13	Cambridge.
118,970 10	73,894 –	4,776 18	25,874 11	16,460 18	121,006 7	- -	9	Chester.
98,846 10	74,856 3	3,233 1	7,320 8	11,644 2	97,053 14	- -	11	Cornwall.
46,811 1	34,883 7	1,655 6	5,935 8	4,507 14	46,981 15	- -	10	Cumberland.
80,578 17	55,018 1	2,981 17	11,368 3	11,829 14	81,197 15	- -	13	Derby.
212,691 2	172,405 16	6,108 2	15,149 9	16,390 4	210,053 11	- -	9	Devon.
82,148 12	68,019 7	1,797 16	6,528 19	6,930 5	83,276 7	- -	11	Dorset.
87,972 1	65,391 10	3,735 –	7,614 10	8,345 –	85,086 –	- -	9	Durham.
228,811 19	185,394 17	5,444 9	17,470 10	20,700 7	229,010 3	- -	12	Essex.
162,392 5	116,184 13	4,389 2	18,164 13	19,521 16	158,260 4	- -	11	Gloucester.
52,121 16	42,195 7	1,701 11	3,539 8	5,358 4	52,794 10	- -	12	Hereford.
77,749 12	59,368 17	1,402 8	8,053 19	7,558 18	76,384 2	- -	16	Hertford.
35,757 15	27,273 4	1,064 9	4,348 6	3,244 16	35,930 15	- -	13	Huntingdon.
313,669 7	247,929 12	9,383 16	22,933 12	40,127 1	320,374 1	- -	17	Kent.
331,740 7	193,854 8	9,504 14	71,854 13	60,520 13	335,734 8	- -	13	Lancaster.
97,019 5	70,077 1	3,771 2	15,760 19	10,513 16	100,122 18	- -	17	Leicester.
188,264 4	131,684 13	7,645 16	23,279 8	23,856 15	186,466 12	- -	10	Lincoln.
641,378 15	408,027 9	12,335 1	66,154 6	174,174 1	660,699 17	- -	16	Middlesex.
31,191 14	22,376 16	1,020 15	5,984 14	2,471 11	31,853 16	- -	6	Monmouth.
275,951 18	230,761 18	6,697 1	16,429 16	25,844 7	279,733 2	- -	16	Norfolk.
112,531 12	91,900 18	2,006 4	7,658 8	10,439 11	112,005 1	- -	23	Northampton.
81,402 15	62,800 1	3,038 10	10,152 16	6,410 9	82,401 16	- -	8	Northumberland.
84,791 10	50,366 2	2,825 2	20,276 7	13,045 2	86,512 13	- -	9	Nottingham.
95,547 10	77,322 7	1,823 4	9,144 16	7,167 2	95,457 9	- -	27	Oxford.
10,282 13	7,569 19	229 12	889 18	1,504 4	10,133 13	- -	8	Rutland.
83,831 14	64,003 –	2,666 9	10,008 14	6,303 2	82,981 5	- -	12	Salop.
177,633 14	140,441 19	4,956 15	16,096 9	20,218 16	181,713 19	- -	9	Somerset.
177,547 2	141,933 11	3,504 9	14,061 12	18,485 7	177,984 19	- -	19	Southampton.
128,004 8	92,175 15	4,646 1	14,984 12	18,727 15	130,534 3	- -	12	Stafford.
224,961 8	187,896 4	5,721 13	19,911 –	15,885 4	229,414 1	- -	16	Suffolk.
270,599 6	187,278 12	4,537 15	27,801 6	59,926 18	279,544 11	- -	17	Surrey.
199,424 1	161,589 –	4,732 8	14,236 2	24,777 2	205,334 12	- -	23	Sussex.
146,062 11	116,403 14	4,684 –	16,688 15	18,487 9	156,263 18	- -	16	Warwick.
25,503 19	18,019 5	464 17	4,912 9	1,839 6	25,235 17	- -	10	Westmorland.
161,967 8	133,472 –	2,676 11	13,434 3	13,672 6	163,255 –	- -	17	Wilts.
84,687 19	58,788 9	2,242 10	13,131 17	10,440 15	84,603 11	- -	15	Worcester.
99,953 8	70,446 9	3,250 4	16,187 12	9,515 6	99,399 11	- -	13	York, East Riding.
83,868 16	61,638 18	2,606 12	11,285 19	7,620 10	83,151 19	- -	10	— North Riding.
282,364 1	197,385 13	9,997 2	40,993 8	34,787 7	283,163 10	- -	13	— West Riding.
6,025,328 14	4,462,080 2	162,582 10	661,676 3	798,432 19	6,084,771 14	- -	15	Totals of England.
								WALES:
19,577 15	15,038 1	1,095 7	1,920 5	1,759 16	19,813 9	- -	–	Anglesey.
20,035 15	15,166 19	607 15	3,011 7	1,405 –	20,191 1	- -	8	Brecon.
21,792 9	17,092 13	687 1	1,959 15	1,770 14	21,510 3	- -	1	Cardigan.
40,881 1	31,829 3	1,295 2	4,817 17	2,419 19	40,362 1	- -	–	Carmarthen.
25,178 19	19,294 1	995 15	2,395 6	1,986 17	24,581 19	1	–	Carnarvon.
39,461 19	30,203 11	857 12	4,532 7	3,590 12	39,184 2	- -	5	Denbigh.
21,935 13	16,080 3	807 13	3,125 13	2,312 15	22,326 4	- -	8	Flint.
43,363 10	34,364 –	948 17	4,986 3	3,641 5	43,940 5	- -	6	Glamorgan.
16,458 17	13,874 4	276 4	1,077 10	883 2	16,111 –	- -	2	Merioneth.
37,112 11	29,443 1	680 3	4,946 14	2,101 14	37,171 12	- -	8	Montgomery.
29,285 14	22,580 3	1,302 6	3,133 14	2,324 5	29,340 8	- -	2	Pembroke.
13,824 18	10,583 13	385 12	2,262 6	584 1	13,815 12	- -	8	Radnor.
329,209 1	255,549 12	9,849 7	38,168 17	24,780 –	328,347 16	- -	4	Totals of Wales.
6,354,537 15	4,717,629 14	172,431 17	699,845 –	823,212 19	6,413,119 10	- -	15	Totals of England and Wales.

No. 2.—AN ACCOUNT, showing the Amount of MONEY EXPENDED for the RELIEF of the POOR, and in SUITS of LAW, REMOVAL of PAUPERS, &c. in each as compared with the Year 1834, and the rate per head of Expenditure in each of those Years, with reference to the Population in 1831; also, the Amount the former Year and the Total Amount of the three Heads of Expenditure in the Years ended 25th March 1834 and 1836, showing the Total Decrease in

COUNTIES.	Population in 1831.	Expended for Relief of the Poor, in the Years ended 25 March			Decrease in 1835, compared with 1834.	Decrease in 1836, compared with 1834.	Decrease, per Cent., in 1835, compared with 1834.	Decrease, per Cent., in 1836, compared with 1834.	Expenditure per Head, (with Reference to Population of 1831), Years ended 25 March			Decrease, per Head, in 1836, compared with 1834.
		1834.	1835.	1836.					1834.	1835.	1836.	
		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.			s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Bedford	95,483	77,819	66,446	46,524	11,373	31,295	15	40	16 4	13 11	9 9	6 7
Berks	145,389	100,183	86,435	65,343	13,748	34,840	14	35	13 9	11 11	9 –	4 9
Buckingham	146,529	124,200	106,100	74,436	18,100	49,764	15	40	16 11	14 6	10 2	6 9
Cambridge	143,955	96,497	86,454	74,808	10,043	21,689	10	22	13 5	12 –	10 5	3 –
Chester	334,391	92,640	81,211	73,894	11,429	18,746	12	20	5 6	4 10	4 5	1 1
Cornwall	300,938	93,037	84,535	74,856	8,502	18,181	9	20	6 2	5 7	5 –	1 2
Cumberland	169,681	43,067	38,966	34,883	4,101	8,184	10	19	5 1	4 7	4 1	1 –
Derby	237,170	72,721	62,886	55,018	9,835	17,703	14	24	6 2	5 4	4 8	1 6
Devon	494,478	210,825	189,917	172,406	20,908	38,419	10	18	8 6	7 8	7 –	1 6
Dorset	159,252	84,293	76,091	68,019	8,202	16,274	10	19	10 7	9 7	8 8	1 11
Durham	253,910	79,399	72,197	65,392	7,202	14,007	9	18	6 3	5 8	5 2	1 1
Essex	317,507	239,946	210,046	185,395	29,900	54,551	12	23	15 1	13 3	11 8	3 5
Gloucester	387,019	161,449	130,156	116,185	31,293	45,264	19	28	8 4	6 9	6 –	2 4
Hereford	111,211	56,683	48,033	42,195	8,650	14,488	15	26	10 2	9 6	7 7	2 7
Hertford	143,341	85,799	70,998	59,369	14,801	26,430	17	31	12 –	9 11	8 3	3 9
Huntingdon	53,192	35,844	31,255	27,273	4,589	8,571	13	24	13 6	11 9	10 3	3 3
Kent	479,155	343,878	297,098	247,930	46,780	95,948	14	28	14 3	12 5	10 4	3 11
Lancaster	1,336,854	253,405	222,059	193,854	31,346	59,551	12	24	3 9	3 4	2 11	– 10
Leicester	197,003	100,857	83,987	70,077	16,870	30,780	17	31	10 3	8 6	7 1	3 2
Lincoln	317,465	161,074	146,058	131,685	15,016	29,389	9	18	10 2	9 2	8 4	1 10
Middlesex	1,358,330	582,412	483,042	408,027	99,370	174,385	17	30	8 7	7 1	6 –	2 7
Monmouth	98,130	27,626	23,805	22,377	3,821	5,249	14	19	5 8	4 10	4 7	1 1
Norfolk	390,054	306,787	273,425	230,762	33,362	76,025	11	25	15 9	14 –	11 10	3 11
Northampton	179,336	140,179	118,842	91,901	21,337	48,278	15	34	15 8	13 3	10 3	5 5
Northumberland	222,912	71,983	68,405	62,800	3,578	9,183	5	13	6 6	6 2	5 8	– 10
Nottingham	225,327	66,030	55,182	50,366	10,848	15,664	16	24	5 10	4 11	4 6	1 4
Oxford	152,156	120,616	106,640	77,322	13,976	43,294	12	36	15 10	14 –	10 2	5 8
Rutland	19,385	9,008	8,184	7,510	824	1,498	9	17	9 4	8 5	7 9	1 7
Salop	222,938	82,493	73,039	64,003	9,454	18,490	11	22	7 5	6 7	5 9	1 8
Somerset	404,200	176,286	154,443	140,442	21,843	35,844	12	20	8 9	7 8	6 11	1 10
Southampton	314,280	203,466	174,418	141,934	29,048	61,532	14	30	12 11	11 1	9 –	3 11
Stafford	410,512	120,512	104,245	92,176	16,267	28,336	13	24	5 10	5 1	4 6	1 4
Suffolk	296,317	245,509	224,094	187,896	21,415	57,613	9	23	16 7	15 2	12 8	3 11
Surrey	486,334	261,501	225,120	187,279	36,381	74,222	14	28	10 9	9 3	7 8	3 1
Sussex	272,340	246,626	210,701	161,589	35,925	85,037	15	34	18 1	15 6	11 10	6 3
Warwick	336,610	158,159	138,629	116,404	19,530	41,755	12	26	9 5	8 3	6 11	2 6
Westmoriand	55,041	22,283	20,057	18,019	2,226	4,264	10	19	8 1	7 3	6 7	1 6
Wilts	240,156	173,925	161,449	133,472	12,476	40,453	7	23	14 6	13 5	11 1	3 5
Worcester	211,365	81,612	68,887	58,788	12,725	22,824	16	28	7 9	6 6	5 7	2 2
York, East Riding	204,253	91,111	81,265	70,446	9,846	20,665	11	23	8 11	7 11	6 11	2 –
– North Riding	190,756	75,810	68,861	61,639	6,949	14,171	9	19	7 11	7 3	6 6	1 5
– West Riding	976,350	251,821	226,425	197,386	25,396	54,435	10	22	5 2	4 8	4 1	1 1
Totals of ENGLAND	13,091,005	6,029,371	5,260,086	4,462,080	769,285	1,567,291	13	26	9 3	8 –	6 10	2 5
WALES:												
Anglesey	48,325	15,542	15,051	15,038	491	504	3	3	6 5	6 3	6 3	– 2
Brecon	47,763	18,974	16,575	15,167	2,399	3,807	13	20	7 11	6 11	6 4	1 7
Cardigan	64,780	18,625	17,245	17,093	1,380	1,532	7	8	5 9	5 4	5 3	– 6
Carmarthen	100,740	33,755	31,715	31,829	2,040	1,926	6	6	6 8	6 4	6 4	– 4
Carnarvon	66,448	20,136	19,077	19,294	1,059	842	5	4	6 1	5 9	5 10	– 3
Denbigh	83,629	33,136	31,668	30,204	1,468	2,932	4	9	7 11	7 7	7 3	– 8
Flint	60,012	19,566	17,477	16,080	2,089	3,486	11	18	6 6	5 10	5 4	1 2
Glamorgan	126,612	40,306	36,725	34,364	3,581	5,942	9	15	6 4	5 10	5 5	– 11
Merioneth	35,315	14,977	14,216	13,874	761	1,103	5	7	8 6	8 1	7 10	– 8
Montgomery	66,482	34,201	31,945	29,443	2,256	4,758	7	14	10 3	9 7	8 10	1 5
Pembroke	81,425	25,593	23,119	22,580	2,474	3,013	10	12	6 3	5 8	5 7	– 8
Radnor	24,651	13,072	11,517	10,583	1,555	2,489	12	19	10 7	9 4	8 7	2 –
Totals of WALES	806,182	287,883	266,330	255,549	21,553	32,331	7	11	7 2	6 7	6 4	– 10
Totals of ENGLAND and WALES £.	13,897,187	6,317,254	5,526,416	4,717,629	790,838	1,599,625	13	25	9 1	7 11	6 9	2 4

* There being no separate head for this item of expenditure in the year ended 25 March 1834, a comparison is necessarily

County in *England* and *Wales*, during the Years ended 25th March 1834, 1835 and 1836 respectively, specifying the Decrease in the Years 1835 and 1836, expended for purposes other than the Relief of the Poor, in the Years ended 25th March 1835 and 1836; stating the Decrease in the latter as compared with the Year 1836.

Expended in Suits of Law, Removal of Paupers, &c. Years ended 25 March		Decrease in 1836, compared with 1834.	Decrease, per Cent., in 1836.	Expended for Purposes other than the Relief of the Poor, Years ended 25 March		Decrease in 1836, compared with 1835.	Decrease, per Cent., in 1836.	Total Expenditure for Relief of Poor, Suits of Law, &c., and other Purposes, Years ended 25 March		TOTAL of Decrease in 1836.
1834.	1836.			1835.	1836*			1834.	1836.	
£.	£.	£.		£.	£.	£.		£.	£.	£.
1,866	735	1,131	61	5,864	3,088	2,776	47	85,549	50,347	35,202
3,458	2,001	1,457	42	11,597	9,700	1,897	16	115,238	77,044	38,194
3,140	2,176	964	31	12,543	8,118	4,425	35	139,883	84,730	55,153
3,427	2,413	1,014	30	10,561	8,273	2,288	22	110,485	85,494	24,991
8,570	4,777	3,793	44	17,229	16,461	768	4	118,439	95,132	23,307
4,182	3,233	949	23	11,914	11,644	270	2	109,133	89,733	19,400
2,316	1,655	661	29	5,130	4,508	622	12	50,513	41,046	9,467
4,163	2,982	1,181	28	13,818	11,830	1,988	14	90,702	69,830	20,872
7,507	6,108	1,399	19	18,052	16,390	1,662	9	236,384	194,904	41,480
2,635	1,798	837	32	6,999	6,930	69	1	93,927	76,747	17,180
5,245	3,735	1,510	29	9,167	8,345	822	9	93,811	77,472	16,339
6,898	5,444	1,454	21	23,716	20,700	3,016	13	270,560	211,539	59,021
7,064	4,389	2,675	38	21,634	19,522	2,112	10	190,147	140,096	50,051
2,245	1,702	543	24	5,481	5,358	123	2	64,409	49,255	15,154
2,057	1,402	655	32	12,187	7,559	4,628	38	100,043	68,330	31,713
1,146	1,064	82	7	3,968	3,245	723	18	40,958	31,582	9,376
15,340	9,384	5,956	39	47,743	40,127	7,616	16	406,961	297,441	109,520
15,776	9,505	6,271	40	64,888	60,521	4,367	7	334,069	263,880	70,189
5,472	3,771	1,701	31	12,091	10,514	1,577	13	118,420	84,362	34,058
8,674	7,646	1,028	12	25,856	23,857	1,999	8	195,604	163,188	32,416
20,427	12,335	8,092	40	187,045	174,174	12,871	7	789,884	594,536	195,348
2,557	1,021	1,536	60	2,856	2,472	384	13	33,039	25,870	7,169
9,535	6,697	2,838	30	29,322	25,844	3,478	12	345,644	263,303	82,341
3,311	2,006	1,305	39	13,123	10,440	2,683	20	156,613	104,347	52,266
4,651	3,039	1,612	35	6,776	6,411	365	5	83,410	72,250	11,160
3,980	2,825	1,155	29	13,824	13,045	779	6	83,834	66,236	17,598
4,441	1,823	2,618	59	11,695	7,167	4,528	39	136,752	86,312	50,440
237	229	8	3	1,959	1,504	455	23	11,204	9,243	1,961
4,082	2,666	1,416	35	7,267	6,303	964	13	93,842	72,972	20,870
6,710	4,957	1,753	26	21,080	20,219	861	4	204,076	165,618	38,458
6,546	3,504	3,042	46	22,251	18,485	3,766	17	232,263	163,923	68,340
6,894	4,646	2,248	33	20,829	18,728	2,101	10	148,235	115,550	32,685
7,746	5,722	2,024	26	19,775	15,885	3,890	20	273,030	209,503	63,527
8,862	4,538	4,324	49	71,021	59,927	11,094	16	341,384	251,744	89,640
7,873	4,732	3,141	40	30,937	24,777	6,160	20	285,436	191,098	94,338
5,935	4,684	1,251	21	22,092	18,487	3,605	16	186,186	139,575	46,611
510	465	45	9	2,037	1,839	198	10	24,830	20,323	4,507
3,587	2,677	910	25	15,888	13,672	2,216	14	193,400	149,821	43,579
3,781	2,242	1,539	41	10,589	10,441	148	1	95,982	71,471	24,511
4,049	3,250	799	20	10,081	9,515	566	6	105,241	83,211	22,030
3,015	2,607	408	14	7,888	7,620	268	3	86,713	71,866	14,847
13,436	9,997	3,439	26	39,675	34,787	4,888	12	304,932	242,170	62,762
243,346	162,582	80,764	33	908,448	798,432	110,016	12	7,181,165	5,423,094	1,758,071
1,441	1,095	346	24	2,003	1,760	243	12	18,986	17,893	1,093
737	608	129	18	1,639	1,405	234	14	21,350	17,180	4,170
688	687	1	–	1,905	1,771	134	7	21,218	19,551	1,667
1,850	1,295	555	30	2,594	2,420	174	7	38,199	35,544	2,655
1,367	906	461	34	2,149	1,987	162	8	23,652	22,187	1,465
1,440	858	582	40	3,981	3,590	391	10	38,557	34,652	3,905
1,853	808	1,045	56	2,442	2,313	129	5	23,861	19,201	4,660
1,939	949	990	51	4,228	3,641	587	14	46,473	38,954	7,519
708	276	432	61	890	883	7	1	16,575	15,033	1,542
1,315	680	635	48	2,162	2,102	60	3	37,678	32,225	5,453
1,444	1,302	142	10	2,327	2,324	3	–	29,364	26,206	3,158
476	385	91	19	593	584	9	2	14,141	11,552	2,589
15,258	9,849	5,409	35	26,913	24,780	2,133	8	330,054	290,178	39,876
258,604	172,131	86,173	33	935,361	823,212	112,149	12	7,511,219	5,713,272	1,797,947

made with the year ended 25 March 1835; or, it is presumed, a larger amount of decrease would have been shown.

Appendix (D.)

No. 3. Bastards Chargeable and Affiliated, 1835 and 1836.

No. 3.—ABSTRACT of RETURNS of the Number of BASTARDS Chargeable to the Parish, and Affiliated, in the Years ended 25 March 1835 and 1836 respectively, in each County in *England* and *Wales*.

COUNTIES.	Year ended 25 March 1835.		Year ended 25 March 1836.	
	Chargeable to the Parish.	Affiliated.	Chargeable to the Parish.	Affiliated.
Bedford	377	83	274	21
Berks	925	89	646	50
Buckingham	748	96	591	34
Cambridge	644	230	630	190
Chester	2,159	329	1,927	202
Cornwall	1,059	365	997	263
Cumberland	1,532	113	1,333	66
Derby	1,225	204	1,088	91
Devon	2,537	453	2,322	293
Dorset	973	311	799	218
Durham	1,113	163	959	130
Essex	1,217	198	1,150	78
Gloucester	1,977	337	1,534	183
Hereford	1,085	235	966	195
Hertford	418	45	302	33
Huntingdon	246	66	224	60
Kent	2,966	216	2,440	114
Lancaster	3,345	1,206	2,940	372
Leicester	738	136	686	87
Lincoln	2,041	451	1,905	359
Middlesex	5,192	318	3,860	110
Monmouth	387	60	355	50
Norfolk	1,938	537	1,815	426
Northampton	869	325	785	238
Northumberland	759	164	654	111
Nottingham	1,132	168	953	85
Oxford	1,001	171	833	104
Rutland	84	26	75	15
Salop	2,154	345	1,919	213
Somerset	2,408	575	2,112	409
Southampton	1,484	135	1,150	73
Stafford	2,500	274	2,009	157
Suffolk	1,652	311	1,463	209
Surrey	2,233	263	1,931	158
Sussex	1,691	164	1,270	34
Warwick	1,664	305	1,437	162
Westmorland	631	69	606	55
Wilts	1,871	356	1,635	277
Worcester	1,154	127	961	62
York, East Riding	1,647	233	1,486	200
– North Riding	1,558	235	1,453	184
– West Riding	4,141	757	3,617	405
Total of ENGLAND	65,475	11,244	56,092	6,776
WALES:				
Anglesea	236	21	240	14
Brecon	235	43	235	43
Cardigan	415	96	384	96
Carmarthen	845	123	828	98
Carnarvon	292	133	299	97
Denbigh	643	158	574	119
Flint	374	85	336	55
Glamorgan	312	54	331	33
Merioneth	217	62	216	51
Montgomery	1,007	106	980	73
Pembroke	831	146	894	139
Radnor	416	110	417	92
Total of WALES	5,823	1,137	5,734	910
Total of ENGLAND and WALES	71,298	12,381	61,826	7,686

No. 4.—AN ACCOUNT of the Annual Average Number of BASTARDS chargeable to the Parish for the Two Years ended 25th March 1836, with their Proportion to the Population of 1831, comparing that Proportion to the Annual Average Expenditure per Head for the Relief of the Poor (in reference to the Population), for the Three Years ended 25th March 1836; also an Account of the Number of Bastards chargeable to the Parish in the Years ended 25th March 1835 and 1836 respectively, with the Decrease in 1836, as compared with 1835; together with the Number of Bastards Affiliated and the Decrease in Affiliations during the same Period, in each County in *England* and *Wales*.

COUNTIES.	Population in 1831.	Average Annual Number of Bastards chargeable to the Parish in the Two Years ended 25th March 1836.	Their Proportion to the Population in 1831.	Average Expenditure per Head for Relief to the Poor in the Three Years ended 25th March 1836.	Number of Bastards chargeable to the Parish in the Year ended 25th March 1835.	Number of Bastards chargeable to the Parish in the Year ended 25th March 1836.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Number of Bastards Affiliated in the Year ended 25th March 1835.	Number of Bastards Affiliated in the Year ended 25th March 1836.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.
				s. *d.*												
Bedford	95,483	326	1/293	13 4	377	274		103		27	83	21		62		75
Berks	145,389	786	1/185	11 7	925	646		279		30	89	50		39		44
Bucks	146,529	670	1/219	13 10	748	591		157		21	96	34		62		65
Cambridge	143,955	637	1/226	11 11	644	630		14		2	230	190		40		17
Chester	334,391	2,043	1/164	4 11	2,159	1,927		232		11	329	202		127		39
Cornwall	300,938	1,028	1/293	5 7	1,059	997		62		6	365	263		102		28
Cumberland	169,681	1,433	1/118	4 7	1,532	1,333		199		13	113	66		47		42
Derby	237,170	1,157	1/205	5 5	1,225	1,088		137		11	204	91		113		55
Devon	494,478	2,430	1/203	7 9	2,537	2,322		215		8	453	293		160		35
Dorset	159,252	886	1/180	9 7	973	799		174		18	311	218		93		30
Durham	253,910	1,036	1/245	5 8	1,113	959		154		14	163	130		33		20
Essex	317,507	1,184	1/268	13 4	1,217	1,150		67		6	198	78		120		61
Gloucester	387,019	1,756	1/220	7 –	1,977	1,534		443		22	337	183		154		46
Hereford	111,211	1,026	1/108	9 1	1,085	966		119		11	235	195		40		17
Hertford	143,341	360	1/398	10 1	418	302		116		28	45	33		12		27
Huntingdon	53,192	235	1/226	11 10	246	224		22		9	66	60		6		9
Kent	479,155	2,703	1/177	12 4	2,966	2,440		526		18	216	114		102		47
Lancaster	1,336,854	3,143	1/425	3 4	3,345	2,940		405		12	1,206	372		834		69
Leicester	197,003	712	1/277	8 7	738	686		52		7	136	87		49		36
Lincoln	317,465	1,973	1/161	9 3	2,041	1,905		136		7	451	359		92		20
Middlesex	1,358,330	4,526	1/300	7 3	5,192	3,860		1,332		26	318	110		208		65
Monmouth	98,130	371	1/264	5 –	387	355		32		8	60	50		10		17
Norfolk	390,054	1,877	1/208	13 7	1,938	1,815		123		6	537	426		111		21
Northampton	179,336	827	1/217	13 1	869	785		84		10	325	238		87		27
Northumberland	222,912	707	1/315	6 1	759	651		105		14	164	111		53		32
Nottingham	225,327	1,043	1/216	5 1	1,132	953		179		16	168	85		83		49
Oxford	152,156	917	1/166	13 4	1,001	833		168		17	171	104		67		39
Rutland	19,385	80	1/242	8 6	84	75		9		11	26	15		11		42

(*continued*)

Appendix (D.)
No. 4.
Bastards Chargeable for Two Years ended 25 March 1836.

COUNTIES.	Population in 1831.	Average Annual Number of Bastards chargeable to the Parish in the Two Years ended 25th March 1836.	Their Proportion to the Population in 1831.	Average Expenditure per Head for Relief to the Poor in the Three Years ended 25th March 1836.	Number of Bastards chargeable to the Parish in the Year ended 25th March 1835.	Number of Bastards chargeable to the Parish in the Year ended 25th March 1836.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Number of Bastards Affiliated in the Year ended 25th March 1835.	Number of Bastards Affiliated in the Year ended 25th March 1836.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.
				s. d.												
Salop	222,938	2,037	1/109	7 3	2,154	1,919	-	235	-	11	345	213	-	132	-	28
Somerset	404,200	2,260	1/179	7 9	2,408	2,112	-	296	-	12	575	409	-	166	-	29
Southampton	314,280	1,317	1/238	11 –	1,484	1,150	-	334	-	23	135	73	-	62	-	46
Stafford	410,512	2,255	1/182	5 2	2,500	2,009	-	491	-	20	274	157	-	117	-	43
Suffolk	296,317	1,558	1/190	14 10	1,652	1,463	-	189	-	11	311	209	-	102	-	33
Surrey	486,334	2,082	1/234	9 3	2,233	1,931	-	302	-	14	263	158	-	105	-	40
Sussex	272,340	1,481	1/184	15 2	1,691	1,270	-	421	-	25	164	34	-	130	-	79
Warwick	336,610	1,551	1/217	8 2	1,664	1,437	-	227	-	14	305	162	-	143	-	47
Westmorland	55,041	619	1/89	7 4	631	606	-	25	-	4	69	55	-	14	-	20
Wilts	240,156	1,753	1/137	13 –	1,871	1,635	-	236	-	13	356	277	-	79	-	22
Worcester	211,365	1,058	1/200	6 7	1,154	961	-	193	-	17	127	62	-	65	-	51
York, East Riding	204,253	1,567	1/130	7 11	1,647	1,486	-	161	-	10	233	200	-	33	-	14
— North Riding	190,756	1,506	1/127	7 3	1,558	1,453	-	105	-	7	235	184	-	51	-	22
— West Riding	976,350	3,879	1/252	4 8	4,141	3,617	-	524	-	13	757	405	-	352	-	46
Totals of England	13,091,005	60,795	1/215	8 –	65,475	56,092	-	9,383	-	14	11,244	6,776	-	4,468	-	40
WALES:																
Anglesey	48,325	238	1/203	6 4	236	240	4	-	2	-	21	14	-	7	-	33
Brecon	47,763	235	1/203	7 1	235	235	-	-	-	-	43	43	-	-	-	-
Cardigan	64,780	400	1/162	5 5	415	384	-	31	-	7	96	96	-	-	-	-
Carmarthen	100,740	837	1/120	6 5	845	828	-	17	-	2	123	98	-	25	-	20
Carnarvon	66,448	296	1/224	5 11	292	299	7	-	2	-	133	97	-	36	-	27
Denbigh	83,629	609	1/137	7 7	643	574	-	69	-	11	158	119	-	39	-	25
Flint	60,012	355	1/169	5 11	374	336	-	38	-	10	85	55	-	30	-	35
Glamorgan	126,612	322	1/393	5 10	312	331	19	-	6	-	54	33	-	21	-	39
Merioneth	35,315	217	1/163	8 2	217	216	-	1	-	-	62	51	-	11	-	18
Montgomery	66,482	994	1/67	9 9	1,007	980	-	27	-	3	106	73	-	33	-	31
Pembroke	81,425	863	1/94	5 10	831	894	63	-	8	-	146	139	-	7	-	5
Radnor	24,651	417	1/59	9 6	416	417	1	-	-	-	110	92	-	18	-	16
Totals of Wales £.	806,182	5,783	1/139	6 9	5,823	5,734	94	183	2	3	1,137	910	-	227	-	20
Totals of England and Wales	13,897,187	66,578	1/209	7 11	71,298	61,826	94	9,566	-	13	12,381	7,686	-	4,695	-	38

— No. 5. —

STATEMENT of the NUMBER of UNIONS FORMED, with the Agency of each Assistant Commissioner; the Number of Parishes united; the Population; and the Average Amount of Poor Rates.

NAME of ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER.	Up to the 17th AUGUST 1836.					
	County.	Number of Unions Declared.	Number of Parishes United.		Population.	Total Amount of Average Rates included.
						£.
Charles Mott, esq., appointed 4th Nov. 1834 -	Suffolk - -	40	213	473	1,072,839	598,637
	Surrey - -		142			
	Middlesex -		57			
	Gloucester -		35			
	Wilts - -		25			
	Somerset -		1			
Sir F. B. Head appointed 28th Oct. 1834: resigned 22d Nov. 1835 -	Kent - -	24	346	346	348,346	298,638
Edw. Gulson, esq., appointed 28th Oct. 1834 -	Notts - -	29	237	853	537,216	289,155
	Oxon - -		190			
	Berks - -		142			
	Gloucester -		141			
	Worcester -		32			
	Warwick -		29			
	Lincoln - -		25			
	Derby - -		17			
	York, W. R. -		11			
	Bucks - -		10			
	Northampton -		8			
	Wilts - -		8			
	Leicester -		2			
	Hants - -		1			
Robt Weale, esq., appointed 11th July 1835 -	Somerset -	30	475	727	667,363	287,395
	Gloucester -		170			
	Worcester -		67			
	Devon - -		7			
	Dorset - -		3			
	Wilts - -		3			
	Hereford -		2			
W. J. Gilbert, esq., appointed 1st Dec. 1834 -	Devon - -	21	375	581	487,564	285,194
	Bucks - -		189			
	Dorset - -		6			
	Oxon - -		4			
	Berks - -		4			
	Surrey - -		2			
	Herts - -		1			
Alfred Power, esq., appointed 4th Nov. 1834 -	Essex - -	30	384	628	478,114	256,314
	Cambridge -		162			
	Hertford -		68			
	Suffolk - -		7			
	Norfolk - -		5			
	Huntingdon -		2			
J. P. Kay, esq., M.D., appointed 11th July 1835	Norfolk - -	14	323	567	269,950	239,988
	Suffolk - -		219			
	Essex - -		24			
	Cambridge -		1			
Col. C. A. A'Court appointed 28th Oct. 1835 -	Wilts - -	38	294	578	436,788	214,382
	Hants - -		280			
	Dorset - -		1			
	Berks - -		1			
	Somerset -		1			
Richd Earle, esq., appointed 7th March 1835 -	Northampton -	23	288	556	333, 15	213,221
	Warwick -		199			
	Huntingdon -		30			
	Stafford - -		10			
	Bucks - -		7			
	Worcester -		6			
	Leicester -		5			
	Gloucester -		4			
	Beds - -		3			
	Oxon - -		2			
	Lincoln - -		1			
	Derby - -		1			

Appendix (D.)

No. 5.
Number of Unions formed, &c.

NAME of ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER.	Up to the 17th AUGUST 1836.					
	County.	Number of Unions Declared.	Number of Parishes United.		Population.	Total Amount of Average Rates included.
						£.
D. G. Adey, esq., appointed 28th Oct. 1834 -	Beds - -	17	129	296	240,644	174,504
	Huntingdon -		73			
	Herts - -		71			
	Bucks - -		13			
	Cambridge -		7			
	Middlesex -		3			
Richard Hall, esq., appointed 7th March 1835 -	Leicester -	17	230	456	282,284	170,640
	Oxon - -		80			
	Rutland - -		47			
	Berks - -		45			
	Northampton -		24			
	Derby - -		9			
	Wilts - -		8			
	Warwick -		7			
	Hants - -		2			
	Bucks - -		2			
	Stafford - -		1			
	Notts - -		1			
W. H. T. Hawley, esq., appointed 5th Nov. 1834	Sussex - -	13	146	147	132,401	141,531
	Surrey - -		1			
Henry Pilkington, esq., appointed 4th Nov. 1834: resigned 22d Feb. 1836 -	Sussex - -	12	125	272	157,516	133,793
	Lincoln - -		115			
	Northampton -		14			
	Rutland - -		9			
	Leicester -		6			
	Hants - -		2			
	Huntingdon -		1			
Sir W. E. Parry appointed 7th March 1845: resigned 15th Feb. 1836 -	Norfolk - -	10	267	281	123,108	104,015
	Suffolk - -		14			
E. C. Tufnell, esq., appointed 11th July 1835 -	Dorset - -	13	230	290	159,157	87,635
	Kent - -		53			
	Somerset -		7			
George Clive, esq., appointed 27th Jan. 1836 -	Monmouth -	7	141	210	159,383	49,251
	Carmarthen -		28			
	Glamorgan -		28			
	Gloucester -		5			
	Hereford -		5			
	Brecknock -		3			
E. W. Head, esq., appointed 18th Jan. 1836 -	Hereford -	8	184	220	100,549	46,006
	Radnor - -		15			
	Worcester -		14			
	Salop - -		5			
	Gloucester -		2			
William Day, esq., appointed 16th Jan. 1836 -	Salop - -	8	132	149	106,754	39,752
	Hereford -		9			
	Stafford - -		4			
	Worcester -		3			
	Montgomery -		1			
Sir J. Walsham, bt., appointed 23d Nov. 1835 -	Dorset - -	3	43	69	76,228	27,860
	Northumberland		24			
	Somerset -		2			
W. J. Voules, esq., appointed 4th Feb. 1836 -	Westmorland -	3	79	106	63,102	25,640
	Lancaster -		27			
R. Digby Neave, esq., appointed 16th Jan. 1836	Chester - -	3	136	136	70,339	20,217
T. Stevens, esq., appointed 16th Jan. 1836 -	Berks - -	—	1	1	203	156
	TOTALS - -	363		7,942	6,303,463	3,703,924

— No. 6. —

LIST of UNIONS formed, PARISHES included therein, POPULATION, AVERAGE POOR RATES, and NUMBER of GUARDIANS, (*in continuation of List given in Appendix* (D.) *to last Report*, No. 1.)

COUNTY OF BEDFORD.

PARISHES UNITED. (BEDFORD.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1832,-33,-34.	Number of elected Guardians.
BEDFORD UNION:		£.	
1. St. Paul's } Town	3,956	1,660	2
2. St. Peter } Town	905	285	1
3. St. John } Town	486	124	1
4. St. Cuthbert } Town	733	211	1
5. St. Mary } Bedford.	879	494	1
6. Great Barford	731	810	1
7. Goldington	494	438	1
8. Ravensden	258	210	1
9. Renhold	453	460	1
10. Roxton	575	850	1
11. Wilden	411	459	1
12. Clapham	298	103	1
13. Oakley	516	351	1
14. Biddenham	369	320	1
15. Bromham	324	332	1
16. Stagsden	597	985	1
17. Steventon	500	570	1
18. Turvey	988	746	1
19. Elston	561	535	1
20. Kempston	1,571	2,097	1
21. Wilhampstead	753	841	1
22. Wootton	1,051	2,049	1
23. Cardington	1,304	548	1
24. Eastcots		589	1
BEDFORD UNION—*continued.*		£.	
25. Cople	643	719	1
26. Willington	332	349	1
27. Colnworth	468	561	1
28. Bolnhurst	300	419	1
29. Knotting	165	146	1
30. Milton Ernest	372	330	1
31. Bletsoe	410	642	1
32. Carlton	424	242	1
33. Chellington	119	96	1
34. Felmersham-cum-Radwell	448	451	1
35. Thurleigh	538	780	1
36. Harrold	995	911	1
37. Pavenham	543	550	1
38. Odell	475	411	1
39. Shainbrook	754	631	1
40. Souldrop	242	335	1
41. Keysoe	718	766	1
42. Melchbourn	227	238	1
43. Riseley	871	803	1
44. Yielden	276	269	1
TOTALS	28,033	25,716	45

Declared to take place from and after 21st September 1835.

COUNTY OF BERKS.

WINDSOR UNION:		Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	
1. New Windsor with Dedworth	5,328	3,245	5
2. Old Windsor	1,453	1,049	2
3. Clewer	3,011	1,269	3
4. Sunninghill	1,520	865	2
5. Egham	4,203	1,485	4
6. Thorpe	471	455	2
TOTALS	15,986	8,368	18

Declared to take place from and after 7th September 1835.

ADDITIONS which have been made to the UNIONS in First Annual Report.

ABINGDON UNION: From 1st Annual Report, page 390.			
14 Parishes	9,626	8,296	17
COUNTY OF BERKS:			
*15. Appleton and Eaton	441	574	1
*16. Appleford	179	182	1
*17. Fyfield	403	282	1
*18. Kingston Bagpuze	306	271	1
*19. Draycot Moor	224	184	1
*20. Lyford	131	169	1
*21. Tubney	167	148	1
*22. Steventon	691	709	1
*23. Milton	413	391	1
*24. Sutton Courtney	834	1,150	1
COUNTY OF OXFORD:			
*25. Baldon Marsh	318	71	1
*26. Baldon Toot	272	198	1
*27. Binsey	74	93	1
*28. Burcott	163	124	1
*29. Clifton	268	213	1
ABINGDON UNION—*continued.*		Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	
*30. Chiselhampton	126	160	1
*31. Culham	404	269	1
*32. Drayton	333	347	1
*33. Nuneham Courtney	314	144	1
*34. Sandorfd	229	188	1
*35. Stadhampton	313	231	1
*36. Littlemoor	425	73	1
COUNTY OF BERKS:			
†37. Frilford	Included in the population of Marcham.	Included with the averages for Marcham.	1
38. Garford			1
TOTALS	16,654	14,467	41

* Addition to take place from and after the 6th October 1835.
† Originally included with the parish of Marcham.

FARRINGDON UNION: From 1st Annual Report, page 390.		Average for the Years 1832,-33,-34.	
30 parishes	12,992	11,914	34
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER:			
*31. Lechdale	1,244	1,210	2
TOTALS	14,236	13,124	36

* Addition to take place from and after 25th January 1836.

WANTAGE UNION: From 1st Annual Report, page 391.			
33 parishes	15,917	16,120	36
*34. Goosey and Circourt	203	185	1
TOTALS	16,120	17,305	37

* Addition to take place from and after 11th April 1836.

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM.

PARISHES UNITED. (Bucks.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
NEWPORT PAGNELL UNION:		£.	
1. Astwood	268	308	1
2. Bletchley	376	364	1
3. Bradwell	257	185	1
4. Cold Brayfield	93	33	1
5. Bow Brickhill	475	350	1
6. Great Brickhill	776	469	1
7. Little Brickhill	514	269	1
8. Broughton	172	75	1
9. Castle Thorpe	366	405	1
10. Chicheley	218	263	1
11. Clifton Reynes	246	199	1
12. North Crowley	791	827	1
13. Emberton	598	627	1
14. Gayhurst	118	68	1
15. Hanslope	1,623	1,799	1
16. Hardmead	83	103	1
17. Haversham	313	178	1
18. Lathbury	172	86	1
19. Lavendon	664	663	1
20. Great Lindford	420	589	1
21. Little Lindford	55	35	1
22. Loughton	325	231	1
23. Middleton, or Milton Keynes	334	385	1
24. Moulsoe	303	170	1
Newport Pagnell Union—*continued.*		£.	
25. Newport Pagnell	3,385	1,515	3
26. Newton Blossomville	237	162	1
27. Newton Longville	473	600	1
28. Olney	2,344	1,428	2
29. Ravenstone	430	303	1
30. Shenley Church End	240	312	1
31. Sherrington	804	471	1
32. Simpson	470	402	1
33. Stantonbury	51	53	1
34. Stoke Goldington	912	732	1
35. Fenny Stratford	635	463	1
36. Tyringham with Filgrave	227	235	1
37. Walton	114	129	1
38. Warrington	74	82	1
39. Water Eaton	243	167	1
40. Wavendon	802	740	1
41. Weston Underwood	441	379	1
42. Willen	98	64	1
43. Great Woolstone	120	91	1
44. Little Woolstone	124	104	1
45. Woughton-on-the-Green	303	164	1
Totals	22,087	17,277	48

Declared to take place from and after 26th September 1835.

COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE.

CAMBRIDGE UNION:			
In the Town of Cambridge;			
1. St. Andrew-the-Less	6,651	1,935	4
2. Holy Trinity	2,104	1,144	2
3. St. Giles	1,917	827	2
4. St. Andrew-the-Great	1,644	1,013	2
5. All Saints	1,422	679	2
6. St. Benedict	964	521	2
7. St. Mary-the Great	944	794	2
8. St. Clements	890	510	2
9. St. Mary-the-Less	810	491	2
10. St. Botolph	759	553	2
11. St. Edward	725	378	2
12. St. Michael	711	247	2
13. St. Peter	702	371	2
14. St. Sepulchre	674	444	2
Totals	20,917	9,907	30

Declared to take place from and after 2d April 1836.

CHESTERTON UNION:			
1. Cottenham	1,635	1,021	2
2. Willingham	1,403	1,130	2
3. Fulbourn	1,207	959	1
4. Chesterton	1,174	488	1
5. Waterbeach	1,146	477	1
6. Great Shelford	812	807	1
7. Histon	784	854	1
8. Trumpington	722	412	1
9. Cherry Hinton	574	588	1
10. Harston	562	299	1
11. Haslingfield	559	267	1
12. Fen Ditton	528	194	1
13. Great Wilbraham	510	287	1
14. Grantchester	488	320	1
15. Oakington	485	309	1
16. Little Shelford	483	423	1
17. Stapleford	464	287	1
18. Dry Drayton	432	422	1
19. Comberton	429	345	1
20. Long Stanton All Saints	428	320	1
Chesterton Union—*continued.*			
21. Landbeach	422	271	1
22. Stow-with-Quy	400	220	1
23. Milton	377	249	1
24. Girton	338	322	1
25. Little Wilbraham	315	169	1
26. Barton	284	178	1
27. Horningsey	272	191	1
28. Madingley	252	184	1
29. Hauton	235	192	1
30. Harlton	223	112	1
31. Impington	211	412	1
32. Teversham	197	184	1
33. Rampton	195	267	1
34. Newton	161	128	1
35. Long Stanton St. Michael's	127	83	1
36. Childerley	96	12	1
37. Coton	225	75	1
Totals	19,104	13,458	39

Declared to take place from and after 2d April 1836.

ELY UNION:			
1. Ely Trinity	4,325	3,147	6
2. Ely St. Mary's	1,796	1,440	3
3. Littleport	2,644	2,493	3
4. Haddenham	1,929	1,444	2
5. Downham	1,722	1,443	2
6. Sutton	1,362	970	2
7. Stretham	916	608	1
8. Witcham	519	320	1
9. Wilburton	471	566	1
10. Witchford	461	460	1
11. Mepal	433	360	1
12. Thetford	257	127	1
13. Wentworth	144	198	1
14. Coveney	348	201	1
Totals	17,327	13,777	26

Declared to take place from and after 25th March 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (CAMBRIDGE.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
NEWMARKET UNION:			
COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE:		£.	
1. All Saints, Newmarket	714	604	1
2. Soham	3,667	2,517	3
3. Isleham	1,942	1,607	2
4. Burwell	1,668	1,469	2
5. Fordham	1,325	872	2
6. Bottisham	1,302	1,078	2
7. Swaffham Prior	1,102	643	1
8. Wicken	892	699	1
9. Wood Ditton	838	691	1
10. Kirtling	735	523	1
11. Swaffham Bulbeck	727	495	1
12. Dullingham	684	591	1
13. Chippenham	665	620	1
14. Steckworth	545	500	1
15. Cheveley	541	350	1
16. Borough Green	421	287	1
17. Ashley-cum-Silverly	361	209	1
18. Brinkley	335	222	1
19. Snailwell	236	141	1
20. Westley	158	52	1
21. Landwade	25	46	1
22. Kennett	195	113	1
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK:			
23. St. Mary's, Newmarket	2,134	1,026	2
24. Exning	917	806	1
25. Dalham	538	499	1
26. Gazeley	737	825	1
27. Moulton	366	223	1
28. Ousden	328	160	1
29. Sidgate	442	323	1
TOTALS	24,590	18,191	36

Declared to take place from and after 30th December 1835.

PARISHES UNITED. (CAMBRIDGE.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
NORTH WITCHFORD UNION:		£.	
1. March	5,117	2,187	7
2. Chatteris	4,177	2,225	7
3. Wimblington	965	915	3
4. Doddington	919	717	3
5. Manea	822	385	2
6. Benwick	526	261	2
7. Welches Dam	137	164	1
TOTALS	12,663	6,854	25

Declared to take place from and after 9th May 1836.

WISBEACH UNION:			
COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE:			
1. Wisbeach, St. Peter's	7,253	4,056	8
2. Wisbeach, St. Mary's	1,524	894	3
3. Elm	1,410	1,215	3
4. Tyd, St. Giles	967	534	2
5. Leverington	945	647	2
6. Parson Drove	755	478	1
7. Newton	431	133	1
COUNTY OF NORFOLK:			
8. Walpole St. Peter's	1,237	1,138	3
9. Walsoken	1,856	938	3
10. Emneth	995	709	2
11. West Walton	905	617	2
12. Walpole, St. Andrew's	514	560	1
TOTALS	18,792	11,919	31

Declared to take place from and after 23d May 1836.

COUNTY OF CHESTER.

ALTRINCHAM UNION:		Average for the Years 1834,–35,–36.	
Parish of Bowdon:			
1. Altrincham	2,708	772	2
2. Agden	99	57	1
3. Ashley	379	153	1
4. Baguley	468	158	1
5. Bollington	268	66	1
6. Bowdon	458	120	1
7. Carrington	552	156	1
8. Dunham-Massey	1,105	266	1
9. Hale	945	280	1
10. Partington	466	93	1
11. Timperley	752	257	1
Parish of Ashton-upon-Mersey:			
12. Ashton-upon-Mersey	974	356	1
13. Sale	1,104	460	1
Parish of Great Budworth:			
14. Aston-by-Budworth	409	372	1
15. Pickmere	228	129	1
16. Plumley	378	248	1
17. Peover Inferior	108	54	1
18. Tabley Inferior	237	100	1
Parish of Cheadle:			
19. Handforth-cum-Basden	1,980	278	1
Parish of Knutsford:			
20. Boxton	76	39	1
21. Nether Knutsford	2,823	802	2
22. Over Knutsford	217	88	1
23. Ollerton	283	96	1
24. Toft	200	63	1
Parish of Rosthern:			
25. High Leigh	983	442	1
26. Martall with Little Warford	281	155	1
27. Mere	552	309	1
28. Millington	330	100	1
29. Peover Superior	561	243	1
30. Rosthern	376	186	1
31. Tabley Superior	442	216	1
32. Tatton	69	141	1

ALTRINCHAM UNION—*cont^d.*		Average for the Years 1834,–35,–36.	
33. Lymm	2,305	652	2
34. Mobberley	1,271	333	1
35. Etchely } Parish of	742	281	1
36. Northen } Northen	678	230	1
37. Warburton	510	151	1
Parish of Wilmslow:			
38. Bollen Fee	1,784	357	2
39. Fulshaw	291	75	1
40. Pownall Fee	1,747	329	2
TOTALS	30,139	9,663	45

Declared to take place from and after 25th August 1836.

RUNCORN UNION:			
Parish of Runcorn:			
1. Runcorn	5,035	644	3
2. Acton Grange	149	138	1
3. Aston Grange	36	47	1
4. Aston-by-Sutton	166	102	1
5. Clifton-by-Rocksavage	36	60	1
6. Daresbury	143	42	1
7. Halton	1,322	417	1
8. Hatton	391	151	1
9. Kekwick	74	67	1
10. Moore	298	120	1
11. Newton by Daresbury	165	68	1
12. Norton	306	141	1
13. Preston-on-the-Hill	461	225	1
14. Stockham	52	12	1
15. Sutton	237	99	1
16. Thelwall	332	190	1
17. Walton Inferior	340	116	1
18. Walton Superior	238	105	1
19. Weston	532	159	1

(*continued*)

PARISHES UNITED. (Chester.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
RUNCORN UNION—*continued.*		£.	
Parish of Great Budworth:			
20. Antrobus	476	199	1
21. Bartington	76	52	1
22. Great Budworth	586	129	1
23. Crowley	146	97	1
24. Dutton	329	181	1
25. Hull and Appleton	1,699	507	1
26. Stretton	324	90	1
27. Seven Oaks	149	74	1
28. Whitley Superior	283	163	1
29. Whitley Inferior	237	107	1
Parish of Grappenhall:			
30. Grappenhall	441	159	1
31. Latchford	2,166	336	1
Parish of Frodsham:			
32. Alvanley	346	115	1
33. Frodsham Township	1,746	511	1
34. Frodsham Lordship	1,024	391	1
35. Helsby	534	147	1
36. Kingsley	934	460	1
37. Manley	331	93	1
38. Newton-by-Frodsham	130	50	1
39. Norley	502	115	1
Parish of Delamere:			
40. Kingswood	86	1	1
Totals	22,858	6,880	42

Declared to take place from and after 26th August 1836.

WIRRALL UNION:		Average for the Years 1834,-35,-36.	
Parish of Bidstone:			
1. Birkenhead	2,569	321	2
2. Bidstone-with-Ford	251	60	1
3. Claughton-with-Grange	224	18	1
4. Moreton	247	126	1
5. Saughall Massey	143	23	1
Parish of Bebbington:			
6. Higher Bebbington	273	35	1
7. Lower Bebbington	440	56	1
8. Poulton-cum-Spittle	120	55	1
9. Storeton	192	29	1
10. Tranmore	1,168	199	1
Parish of Burton:			
11. Burton	313	48	1
12. Puddington	145	78	1
Parish of Bromborrow:			
13. Bromborrow	313	81	1
14. Brimstage	136	17	1

PARISHES UNITED. (Chester.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1834,-35,-36.	Number of elected Guardians.
Wirrall Union—*continued.*		£.	
Parish of Eastham:			
15. Eastham	350	97	1
16. Horton	103	98	1
17. Nether Pool	19	no poor	1
18. Over Pool	93	no poor	1
19. Great Sutton	162	105	1
20. Little Sutton	387	100	1
21. Childen Thornton	296	47	1
22. Whitby	234	83	1
Parish of Heswall:			
23. Gayton	110	31	1
24. Heswall-with-Oldfield	296	39	1
Parish of Neston:			
25. Lidsham	70	31	1
26. Leighton	333	109	1
27. Ness	480	102	1
28. Great Neston	1,638	475	1
29. Little Neston	412	122	1
30. Raby	165	65	1
31. Thornton Haugh	146	52	1
32. Willaston	976	135	1
Parish of Wallazey:			
33. Liscard	967	107	1
34. Poulton-cum-Seacomb	1,212	127	1
35. Wallazey	558	107	1
Parish of West Kirby:			
36. Caldey	102	17	1
37. Frankley	114	12	1
38. Grange	124	28	1
39. Greasby	141	76	1
40. Hoose	196	31	1
41. Great Meolse	198	30	1
42. Little Meolse	126	20	1
43. Newton-with-Larton	56	10	1
44. West Kirby	232	11	1
Parish of Woodchurch:			
45. Arrow	91	39	1
46. Barnston	112	21	1
47. Irby	123	26	1
48. Landican	61	12	1
49. Noctorum	28	no poor	1
50. Oxton	234	15	1
51. Pensby	21	4	1
52. Prenton	104	17	1
53. Thingwell	77	3	1
54. Woodchurch	78	40	1
55. Thurstaston	92	10	1
56. Upton or Overchurch	191	74	1
Totals	17,342	3,674	57

Declared to take place from and after 16th May 1836.

COUNTY OF DEVON.

AXMINSTER UNION:		Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	
County of Devon:			
1. Axminster	2,719	1,558	3
2. Axmouth	646	308	1
3. Beer and Seaton	1,803	829	2
4. Colyton	2,182	1,405	2
5. Combe Pyne	142	79	1
6. Kilmington	540	252	1
7. Membury	870	515	1
8. Musbury	418	147	1
9. Shute	617	302	1
10. Thorncombe	1,368	866	2
11. Uplyme	975	385	1
County of Dorset:			
12. Charmouth	724	312	1
13. Chardstock	1,357	816	2
14. Dalwood	434	163	1

Axminster Union—*continued*		Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	
15. Hawkchurch	889	480	1
16. Lyme Regis	2,600	1,243	3
17. Stockland	1,206	558	1
Totals	19,490	10,218	25

Declared to take place from and after the 16th April 1836.

BARNSTAPLE UNION:			
1. Barnstaple	6,840	1,804	5
2. Ashford	99	55	1
3. Arlington	235	118	1
4. Atherington	592	268	1
5. Berryn Arbor	794	235	1
6. Brendon	259	132	1
7. Bittadon	57	12	1
8. Bishops Tawton	1,641	552	2
9. Braunton	2,047	653	2
10. Bratton Fleming	534	260	1
11. Challacombe	240	44	1
12. Combe Martin	1,031	354	2

PARISHES UNITED. (DEVON.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
BARNSTAPLE UNION—*continued.*		£.	
13. Countisbury	187	53	1
14. East Down	446	162	1
15. Fremington	1,180	461	1
16. Goodleigh	442	196	1
17. Georgeham	925	357	1
18. Heanton Punchardon	586	273	1
19. Horwood	130	68	1
20. High Bray	280	30	1
21. Ilfracombe	3,201	948	3
22. Instow	369	140	1
23. Kentisbury	340	146	1
24. Landkey	790	287	1
25. Linton	792	291	1
26. Loxhore	248	120	1
27. Marwood	944	389	1
28. Martinhoe	235	61	1
29. Morthoe	333	159	1
30. Newton Tracey	111	26	1
31. Paracombe	409	141	1
32. Pilton	1,819	436	2
33. Sherwill	688	364	1
34. Stoke Rivers	270	119	1
35. Swymbridge	1,511	634	2
36. Tavistock	1,348	840	1
37. Trentishoe	128	40	1
38. West Down	623	202	1
39. Westleigh	484	197	1
TOTALS	33,198	11,677	50

Declared to take place from and after 2d December 1835.

BIDEFORD UNION:			
1. Bideford	4,847	1,690	4
2. Abbotsham	387	171	1
3. Alwington	486	199	1
4. Bradworthy	1,027	490	2
5. Bulkworthy	198	93	1
6. Buckland Brewer	1,096	501	2
7. Clovelly	907	313	1
8. East Putford	209	64	1
9. Hartland	2,143	1,226	2
10. Landcross	96	21	1
11. Littleham	424	178	1
12. Monkleigh	562	232	1
13. Northam	2,727	1,000	2
14. Newton, St. Petrock	256	96	1
15. Parkham	923	325	1
16. West Putford	401	164	1
17. Welcombe	258	110	1
18. Woolfardisworthy	840	430	1
TOTAL	17,787	7,333	25

Declared to take place from and after 1st December 1835.

CREDITON UNION:			
1. Bow, or Nymet Tracey	962	341	1
2. Brushford	136	62	1
3. Chawleigh	865	421	1
4. Coldridge	644	233	1
5. Cheriton Bishop	799	275	1
6. Clanaborough	58	55	1
7. Cheriton Fitzpaine	1,085	634	1
8. Crediton	5,922	3,821	4
9. Colebrooke	880	505	1
10. Down, St. Mary	407	172	1
11. Eggesford	168	73	1
12. Hittisleigh	168	78	1
13. Kennerleigh	110	74	1
14. Lapford	700	245	1
15. Morchard Bishop	2,003	1,324	2
16. Newton, St. Cyres	1,311	596	1
17. Nymet Rawland	99	27	1
18. Poughill	331	155	1
19. Puddington	184	76	1
20. Stockleigh Pomeroy	238	156	1
21. Stockleigh English	144	80	1
22. Shobrooke	644	561	1
23. Sandford	2,011	1,503	2
24. Thelbridge	219	103	1
25. Upton Hellions	152	76	1
26. Wembworthy	378	171	1
27. Washford Pine	174	50	1
28. Woolfardisworthy	226	92	1
29. Zeal Monachorum	747	355	1
TOTALS	21,765	12,314	34

Declared to take place from and after 19th April 1836.

HONITON UNION:			
1. Awliscombe	598	205	1
2. Broadhembury	849	614	1
3. Brunscombe	829	575	1
4. Buckerell	304	147	1
5. Comb Rawleigh	296	170	1
6. Dunkeswell	414	189	1
7. Farway	360	186	1
8. Feniton	343	239	1
9. Gittisham	370	113	1
10. Harpford	307	119	1
11. Honiton	3,509	1,543	3
12. Lappitt	702	365	1
13. Monkton	120	99	1
14. Northleigh	240	79	1
15. Ottery St. Mary	3,849	1,595	3
16. Plymtree	439	207	1
17. Payhembury	542	270	1
18. Sheldon	185	108	1
19. Salcombe Regis	448	258	1
20. Sidbury	1,725	891	2
21. Southleigh	320	178	1
22. Sidmouth	3,126	936	3
23. Tallaton	479	258	1
24. Up Ottery	940	544	1
25. Venn Ottery	133	51	1
26. Colleigh	240	83	1
27. Widworthy	278	105	1
28. Offwell	385	117	1
TOTALS	22,330	10,244	35

Declared to take place from and after 18th April 1836.

		Average for the Years 1834,–35,–36.	
KINGSBRIDGE UNION:			
1. Aveton Gifford	939	511	2
2. Blackanton	1,477	807	3
3. Bigbury	578	475	1
4. Buckland Toutsaints	46	35	1
5. Chivelstone	601	274	1
6. Charleton	644	228	1
7. Churchston	326	188	1
8. Dodbrooke	1,038	141	2
9. East Allington	677	260	1
10. East Portlemouth	427	241	1
11. Kingsbridge	1,586	566	3
12. Kingstone	504	424	1
13. Loddiswell	826	326	2
14. Modbury	2,116	1,006	3
15. Malborough	1,604	499	3
16. Ringmore	309	213	1
17. South Milton	415	196	1
18. South Huish	357	171	1
19. Slapton	665	265	1
20. Stokenham	1,609	756	3
21. Sherford	511	176	1
22. Stoke Fleming	725	329	2
23. South Pool	567	294	1
24. Thurleston	466	178	1
25. West Allington	872	408	2
26. Woodleigh	279	102	1
TOTALS	20,164	9,069	41

Declared to take place from and after 22d June 1836.

NEWTON ABBOT UNION:			
1. Abbots Kerswell	442	172	1
2. Ashburton	4,165	1,849	4
3. Bickington	351	219	1
4. Bishop's Teignton	1,085	368	1
5. Bovey Tracey	1,697	882	2

PARISHES UNITED. (Devon.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1834,-35,-36.	Number of elected Guardians.
Newton Abbot Union—*continued.*		£.	
6. Buckland-in-the-Moor	139	67	1
7. Corkington	223	95	1
8. Combe-in-Teignhead	460	209	1
9. Coffinswell	265	147	1
10. Chudleigh	2,278	1,041	3
11. Denbury	464	126	1
12. Dawlish	3,151	920	3
13. Broad Hempstone	743	352	1
14. High Week	1,109	461	2
15. Hennock	747	400	1
16. Ilsington	1,293	683	1
17. Ipplepen	1,164	375	1
18. Ideford	381	181	1
19. King's Kerswell	771	257	1
20. King's Teignton	1,288	618	1
21. Lustleigh	361	223	1
22. Moreton Hampstead	1,864	1,157	2
23. Manaton	435	259	1
24. North Bovey	609	297	1
25. Nicholas, St.	1,195	299	1
26. Ogwell, East	318	142	1
27. Ogwell, West	50	113	1
28. St. Mary Church	1,204	449	1
29. Torbryan	257	204	1
30. Tor-Moham	3,582	544	3
31. Trusham	207	42	1
32. Teignmouth, East	1,810	672	2
33. Teignmouth, West	2,878	1,172	3
34. Teingrace	160	65	1
35. Woolborough	2,194	703	3
36. Woodland	237	243	1
37. Widecombe-in-the-Moor	959	474	1
38. Stoke-in-Teignhead	621	266	1
39. Haccomb	13	- no poor -	1
Totals	41,180	16,756	56

Declared to take place from and after 20th June 1836.

OKEHAMPTON UNION:		Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	
1. Ashbury	74	20	1
2. Belstone	206	56	1
3. Bridestow	907	337	1
4. Bratton Clovelly	787	319	1
5. Broadwood Kelly	388	140	1
6. Bondleigh	339	135	1
7. Drewsteignton	1,313	660	1
8. Exbourne	509	257	1
9. Gidleigh	155	82	1
10. Hatherleigh	1,606	762	2
11. Honey Church	72	28	1
12. Inwardleigh	638	190	1
13. Iddesleigh	574	181	1
14. Jacobstowe	293	49	1
15. Meeth	293	117	1
16. Monk Okehampton	259	115	1
17. North Lew	980	328	1
18. North Tawton	1,788	716	2
19. Okehampton	2,055	914	2
20. Sampford Courtnay	1,217	586	1
21. Sourton	625	385	1
22. Spreyton	423	124	1
23. South Tawton	1,937	1,279	2
24. Throwleigh	460	242	1
25. Chagford	1,868	813	2
26. Belworthy	339	112	1
27. High Hampton	364	114	1
28. Germansweek	370	96	1
Totals	20,844	9,157	33

Declared to take place from and after 20th April 1836.

SOUTH MOLTON:			
1. South Molton	3,826	1,395	3
2. Bishop's Nympton	1,116	671	2
3. Burrington	987	461	1
4. Charles	343	96	1
5. Cheldon	90	61	1
6. Chulmleigh	1,573	747	2
7. Chittlehampton	1,897	736	2

PARISHES UNITED. (Devon.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
South Molton—*continued.*		£.	
8. Creacombe	43	26	1
9. East Anstey	166	85	1
10. East Buckland	173	85	1
11. East Workington	292	154	1
12. Filleigh	329	98	1
13. George Nympton	268	159	1
14. King's Nympton	699	187	1
15. Knawstone	521	303	1
16. Mari-Ansleigh	282	84	1
17. Meshaw	166	43	1
18. Molland	531	319	1
19. North Molton	1,937	1,115	2
20. Rackenford	472	148	1
21. Romansleigh	217	90	1
22. Rose Ashe	487	276	1
23. Satterleigh	53	23	1
24. Twitchen	170	113	1
25. West Anstey	226	159	1
26. Warkleigh	283	138	1
27. West Buckland	273	173	1
28. West Worlington	187	88	1
29. Witheridge	1,263	586	2
Totals	18,875	8,619	36

Declared to take place from and after 28th November 1835.

ST. THOMAS UNION:			
1. Alpington	1,236	544	1
2. Ashton	333	178	1
3. Ashcombe	320	178	1
4. Aylesbear	1,025	373	1
5. Bramdfordspeke	374	206	1
6. Broad Clist	2,085	1,434	2
7. Bridford	529	302	1
8. Christow	601	352	1
9. Doddiscombsleigh	392	195	1
10. Dunchediock	182	39	1
11. Dunsford	903	311	1
12. Exminster	1,113	751	1
13. Exmouth and Littleham	3,189	1,022	3
14. Farringdon	377	369	1
15. Holcomb Burnel	264	77	1
16. Heavitree	1,932	888	2
17. Honiton Clist	426	261	1
18. Huxham	153	120	1
19. Ide	757	492	1
20. Kenn	982	911	1
21. Kenton	2,050	1,121	2
22. Lympstone	1,066	335	1
23. Mamhead	330	106	1
24. Nether Exe	99	40	1
25. Pinhoe	517	303	1
26. Poltimore	292	199	1
27. Powderham	275	181	1
28. Rockbeare	530	208	1
29. Rewe	286	132	1
30. Shillngford, St. George	89	14	1
31. Sawton	391	260	1
32. St. Leonard's	467	109	1
33. St. Thomas	4,203	1,484	4
34. St. Mary Clist	137	96	1
35. St. George Clist	359	259	1
36. Stoke Canon	446	161	1
37. Topsham	3,184	1,529	3
38. Tedborne, St. Mary	321	372	1
39. Upton Pine	514	345	1
40. Whitestone	643	234	1
41. Whitecombe Rawleigh	1,063	398	1
42. Woodbury	1,673	738	2
43. Colaton Rawleigh	857	323	1
44. Clist Hidon	331	149	1
45. Clist, St. Lawrence	185	62	1
46. East Budleigh	2,044	529	2
47. Whimple	739	325	1
48. Otterton	1,178	417	1
49. Bicton	213	92	1
Totals	42,155	19,524	61

Declared to take place from and after 21st April 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (DEVON.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
TIVERTON UNION:		£.	
1. Tiverton	9,766	5,894	4
2. Bampton	1,961	1,408	2
3. Bradninch	1,524	715	2
4. Bickleigh	323	152	1
5. Butterleigh	142	39	1
6. Cadbury	256	142	1
7. Cadleigh	312	136	1
8. Calverleigh	91	35	1
9. Cullompton	3,831	2,124	3
10. Cruwys Morchard	634	311	1
11. Halberton	1,636	893	2
12. Huntshaw	170	63	1
13. Kentisbear	1,336	803	1
14. Loxbear	157	65	1
15. Morebath	436	278	1
16. Oakford	497	269	1
17. Sampford	787	401	1
18. Silverton	1,389	1,009	2
19. Stoodley	524	202	1
20. Templeton	222	118	1
21. Thorverton	1,455	874	2
22. Uffculm	2,082	1,303	2
23. Uplowman	335	309	1
24. Washfield	435	265	1
25. Willand	321	115	1
26. Clarghanger	272	114	1
27. Hockworthy	335	178	1
28. Holcombe Rogus	915	411	1
TOTALS	32,144	18,626	39

Declared to take place from and after 30th November 1835.

TORRINGTON UNION:			
1. Great Torrington	3,092	1,207	3
2. Alverdiscot	339	120	1
3. Ashreigny, or Ring's Ashe	1,038	471	2
4. Beaford	624	286	1
5. Dolton	370	361	1
6. Dowland	195	86	1
7. Futhelstock	696	327	1
8. High Bickington	853	281	1
9. Huish	131	49	1
10. Huntshaw	312	90	1
11. Langtree	888	320	1
12. Merton	740	308	1
13. Peter's Marland	356	88	1
14. Petrockstow	581	275	1
15. Roborough	584	282	1
16. Shebbear	1,179	536	2
17. Sheepwash	446	204	1
18. St. Giles-in-the-Wood	894	363	1
19. Little Torrington	572	265	1
20. Winkleigh	1,596	934	2
21. Wear Gifford	547	180	1
22. Yarnscombe	498	249	1
23. Buckland Filleigh	317	134	1
TOTALS	17,348	7,416	28

Declared to take place from and after 30th November 1835.

TOTNES UNION:		Average for the Years 1834,-35,-36.	
1. Ashprington	549	294	1
2. Berry Pomeroy	1,186	702	2
3. Brixham	5,015	1,762	4
4. Buckfastleigh	2,445	963	3
5. Churston Ferrers	763	335	1
6. Cornworthy	567	273	1
7. Dittisham	816	384	1
8. Diptford	735	366	1
9. Dean Prior	553	404	1
10. Dartington	618	297	1
11. Halwell	474	266	1
12. Holne	369	153	1
13. Huish, North	457	223	1
14. Harberton	1,584	797	2
15. Kingswear	275	140	1
16. Little Hempstone	321	114	1
17. Morley	182	100	1
18. Marldon	438	224	1
19. Paignton	1,960	687	2
20. Rattery	506	326	1
21. Staverton	1,055	648	1
22. Stoke Gabriel	718	449	1
23. South Bent	1,248	599	2
24. Dartmouth, St. Petrox	1,035	267	1
25. Dartmouth, St. Saviour	2,316	540	3
26. Dartmouth, Townstall	1,246	536	2
27. Totnes	3,442	1,054	4
28. Ugborough	1,467	976	2
TOTALS	32,340	13,879	44

Declared to take place from and after the 21st June 1836.

COUNTY OF DORSET.

BEAMINSTER UNION: COUNTY OF DORSET:			
1. Beaminster	2,968	1,437	3
2. Bettiscombe	65	64	1
3. Broadwinsor	1,570	697	2
4. Burstock	261	155	1
5. Cheddington	178	79	1
6. East Chelborough	83	29	1
7. West Chelborough	62	38	1
8. Corscombe	714	345	1
9. Evershot	569	263	1
10. Halstock	554	258	1
11. Hooke	269	116	1
12. Mapperton	112	79	1
13. Marshwood	536	367	1
14. Melbury Osmund	380	239	1
15. Melbury Sampford	53	44	1
16. Mosterton	303	136	1
17. Netherbury	1,942	1,094	2
18. South Perrott	381	300	1
19. Pilsdon	99	33	1
20. Poorstock	1,024	698	2
21. North Poorton	89	51	1
22. Rampisham	416	278	1
23. Stoke Abbot	587	372	1
24. Wraxall	70	63	1
25. Misterton	460	235	1
26. Seaborough	124	41	1
TOTALS	13,869	7,511	31

Declared to take place from and after 28th March 1836.

BLANDFORD UNION:			
1. Blandford Forum	3,109	1,777	3
2. Blandford, St. Mary	363	312	1
3. Almer	176	88	1
4. Anderson	54	52	1
5. Bryanston	155	56	1
6. Charlton Marshall	324	239	1
7. Durweston	418	303	1
8. Hilton	685	447	1
9. Iwerne Courtnay, *alias* Shroton	557	348	1
10. Langton Long Blandford	187	184	1
11. Milbourne, St. Andrew	240	297	1
12. Milbourne Styleham	313	97	1
13. Milton Abbas	846	423	1

PARISHES UNITED. (Dorset.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
Blandford Union—*continued.*		£.	
14. Pimperne	489	349	1
15. Spettisbury	667	403	1
16. Steepleton Preston	36	6	1
17. Stourpain	594	431	1
18. Tarrant Crawford	78	50	1
19. Tarrant Gunville	502	327	1
20. Tarrant Hinton	241	146	1
21. Tarrant Keynston	277	201	1
22. Tarrant Launceston	72	59	1
23. Tarrant Monkton	220	235	1
24. Tarrant Rawston	48	17	1
25. Tarrant Rushton	226	71	1
26. Turnworth	78	31	1
27. Winterborne Clenston	84	139	1
28. Winterborne Houghton	265	87	1
29. Winterborne Kingston	564	289	1
30. Winterborne Stickland	401	335	1
31. Winterborne Tomson	41	28	1
32. Winterborne Whitchurch	513	408	1
33. Winterborne Zelston	233	152	1
Totals	13,056	8,387	35

Declared to take place from and after 5th December 1835.

BRIDPORT UNION:			
1. Bridport	4,242	2,022	4
2. Allington	1,300	567	2
3. Askerswell	228	95	1
4. Bothenhampton	424	206	1
5. Bradpole	1,018	403	2
6. Burton Bradstock	1,068	547	2
7. Catherston Leweston	27	8	1
8. Chidcock	838	507	1
9. Chilcombe	35	no poor	1
10. Litton Cheney	420	95	1
11. Loders	812	561	1
12. Puncknowle	424	155	1
13. Shipston Gorge	316	188	1
14. Stanton St. Gabriel	101	23	1
15. Swyre	226	92	1
16. Symondsbury	1,147	639	2
17. Walditch	164	113	1
18. WhitechurchCanonicorum	1,399	751	2
19. Wootton Fitzpaine	455	237	1
Totals	14,644	7,209	27

Declared to take place from and after 28th March 1836.

CERNE UNION:			
1. Cerne Abbas	1,209	537	2
2. Alton Pancras	210	118	1
3. Batcombe	178	43	1
4. Buckland Newton	786	472	1
5. Cattistock	427	234	1
6. Chesilborne	351	274	1
7. Frome St. Quintin	143	89	1
8. Godmanston	152	36	1
9. Hermitage	124	76	1
10. Hilfield	150	75	1
11. Mappowder	308	110	1
12. Melbury Bubb	121	39	1
13. Melcombe Horsey	172	79	1
14. Mintern Magna	331	204	1
15. Nether Cerne	83	26	1
16. Piddletrenthide	680	388	1
17. Pulham	302	175	1
18. Sydling St. Nicholas	617	268	1
19. Up-Cerne	88	29	1
20. Wootton Glanville	331	200	1
Totals	6,763	3,472	21

Declared to take place from and after 23d December 1835.

PARISHES UNITED. (Dorset.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
CRANBORNE UNION:			
1. Cranborne	2,158	1,170	3
2. Chettle	129	49	1
3. Edmondesham	271	257	1
4. Farnham	94	25	1
5. Gussage, All Saints	373	168	1
6. Gussage, St. Michael	233	98	1
7. Horton	421	241	1
8. Long Critchell	138	48	1
9. More Critchell	304	93	1
10. Pentridge	241	160	1
11. Sixpenny Handley	889	681	2
12. Tollard Farnham	220	98	1
13. Wimborne, St. Giles	384	204	1
14. Woodland	423	237	1
Totals	6,278	3,529	17

Declared to take place from and after 30th September 1836.

DORCHESTER UNION:			
1. All Saints } Dorchester	667	451	1
2. Holy Trinity } Dorchester	1,269	492	2
3. St. Peter } Dorchester	1,097	558	2
4. Athelhampston	67	35	1
5. Bradford Peverell	330	104	1
6. Broadmayne	362	131	1
7. Burleston	67	12	1
8. Charminster	596	294	1
9. Chilfrome	111	54	1
10. Compton Abbas	69	28	1
11. Compton Vallence	104	58	1
12. Dewlish	361	223	1
13. Fordington	2,030	904	2
14. Frampton	376	241	1
15. Frome Vauchurch	135	33	1
16. Kingston Russell	73	7	1
17. West Knighton	308	170	1
18. Little Bredy	165	66	1
19. Long Bredy	333	139	1
20. Maiden Newton	538	269	1
21. Piddlehinton	403	217	1
22. Piddletown	1,223	781	2
23. West Stafford	184	56	1
24. Stratton	310	155	1
25. Stinsford	382	150	1
26. Tincleton	171	108	1
27. Toller Fratrum	56	7	1
28. Toller Porcorum	540	221	1
29. Tollpiddle	349	346	1
30. Warmwell	87	37	1
31. Whitcomb	64	71	1
32. Winterborne Came	80	23	1
33. Winterborne Herringstone	46	7	1
34. Winterborne Monckton	101	38	1
35. Winterborne St. Martin	369	199	1
36. Winterborne Steepleton	176	87	1
37. Winterborne Abbas	133	87	1
38. Winford Eagle	134	127	1
39. Woodsford	182	55	1
Totals	14,048	7,041	43

Declared to take place from and after 2d January 1836.

POOLE UNION:			
1. Poole	6,459	3,236	4
2. Canford Magna	876	477	1
3. Hanworthy	308	149	1
4. Kingston	775	384	1
5. Longfleet	840	336	1
6. Lytchett Matravers	680	224	1
7. Lytchett Minster	505	277	1
8. Parkston	609	133	1
Totals	11,052	5,216	11

Declared to take place from and after 2d October 1835.

PARISHES UNITED. (DORSET.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
PURBECK UNION:		£.	
1. Corfe Castle	1,712	1,185	2
2. Church Knowle	438	276	1
3. Kimmeridge	124	56	1
4. Langton Matravers	676	391	1
5. Steeple	237	254	1
6. Studland	435	217	1
7. Swanage *alias* Sandwich	1,734	1,006	2
8. Tyneham	247	148	1
9. Worth Matravers	356	258	1
TOTALS	5,959	3,791	11
Declared to take place from and after 25th March 1836.			
SHAFTESBURY UNION:			
1. Ashmore	191	84	1
2. Compton Abbas	401	286	1
3. Fontmell Magna	743	518	1
4. Gillingham	2,520	1,800	2
5. Holy Trinity	1,184	1,004	2
6. Iwerne Minster	634	299	1
7. Margaret Marsh	86	32	1
8. Melbury Abbas	354	237	1
9. Motcomb	1,405	1,302	2
10. East Orchard	201	125	1
11. West Orchard	183	157	1
12. Shaston St. Rumbold, *alias* Cann	435	156	1
13. St. James	813	760	1
14. St. Peter	1,114	893	2
15. East Stour	531	265	1
16. West Stour	219	148	1
17. Stour Provost	870	647	1
18. Sutton Waldron	236	111	1
19. Todber	119	58	1
TOTALS	12,239	8,882	23
Declared to take place from and after 12th October 1835.			
SHERBORNE UNION:			
COUNTY OF DORSET:			
1. Sherborne	4,075	1,820	5
2. Beer Hackett	110	47	1
3. Bradford Abbas	595	246	1
4. Castletown	186	82	1
5. Caundle Bishop	376	189	1
6. Caundle Marsh	70	60	1
7. Caundle Purse	180	119	1
8. Chetnole	236	166	1
9. Clifton Mabank	60	33	1
10. Folke	281	137	1
11. Haydon	123	50	1
12. Holnest	159	109	1
13. Leigh	400	215	1
14. Lillington	205	110	1
15. Longburton	361	134	1
16. Nether Compton	415	244	1
17. Over Compton	139	56	1
18. Oborne	83	83	1
19. Ryme Intrinseca	171	82	1
20. Stockwood	33	24	1
21. Thornford	383	115	1
22. North Wootton	78	23	1
23. Yetminster	563	309	1
COUNTY OF SOMERSET:			
24. Goathill	35	18	1
25. Holwell	405	171	1
26. Marston Magna	346	121	1
27. Pointington	165	74	1
28. Rimpton	208	87	1
29. Sandford Orcas	353	151	1
30. Trent	449	186	1
TOTALS	11,243	5,261	34
Declared to take place from and after the 24th December 1835.			
STURMINSTER UNION:			
1. Sturminster Newton	1,831	1,834	2
2. Belchalwell	205	110	1
3. Caundle Stourton	349	150	1
STURMINSTER UNION—*continued.*			
4. Child Okeford	612	446	1
5. Fifehead Magdalen	241	119	1
6. Fifehead Neville	101	56	1
7. Hammoon	54	68	1
8. Haselbury Bryan	611	238	1
9. Hinton St. Mary	303	153	1
10. Ibberton	225	128	1
11. Lydlinch	365	254	1
12. Manston	149	103	1
13. Marnhull	1,309	794	2
14. Okeford Fitzpaine	620	344	1
15. Shilling Okeford	473	201	1
16. Stalbridge	1,773	1,438	2
17. Stock Gayland	66	54	1
18. Stoke Wake	147	80	1
19. Woolland	119	86	1
TOTALS	9,553	6,658	22
Declared to take place from and after the 4th December 1835.			
WAREHAM UNION:			
1. Holy Trinity (Wareham.)	675	375	1
2. Lady St. Mary (Wareham.)	1,120	546	2
3. St. Martin (Wareham.)	530	275	1
4. Affpiddle	442	265	1
5. Arne	171	126	1
6. Bere Regis	1,170	635	2
7. Bloxworth	251	112	1
8. Chaldon Herring	270	215	1
9. Coombe Keynes	113	54	1
10. East Holme	55	17	1
11. East Lullworth	345	166	1
12. East Stoke	561	330	1
13. Morden	813	273	1
14. Moreton	304	70	1
15. Tonerspiddle	82	50	1
16. West Lullworth	360	240	1
17. Winfrith	891	570	1
18. Wool	467	257	1
TOTALS	8,620	4,576	20
Declared to take place from and after the 25th March 1836.			
WEYMOUTH UNION:			
1. Weymouth	2,529	810	2
2. Melcombe Regis	5,126	1,645	3
3. Abbotsbury	374	428	1
4. Bincomb	177	109	1
5. Broadway	385	189	1
6. Buckland Ripers	115	55	1
7. Chickerell, West	430	98	1
8. Fleet	122	78	1
9. Langton Herring	205	96	1
10. Osmington	421	115	1
11. Owermoigne	379	294	1
12. Portisham	663	386	1
13. Portland	2,670	997	2
14. Preston	555	261	1
15. Poxwell	99	26	1
16. Radipole	382	182	1
17. Upway	618	196	1
18. Wyke Regis	1,197	248	1
TOTALS	16,947	6,213	22
Declared to take place from and after the 14th January 1836.			
WIMBORNE UNION:			
1. Wimborne Minster	4,009	2,496	4
2. Chalbury	157	77	1
3. Corfe Mullen	603	282	1
4. Hampreston	883	567	1
5. Hinton Martell	267	125	1
6. Hinton Parva	36	8	1
7. West Parley	235	222	1
8. Shapwicke	462	394	1
9. Sturminster Marshall	803	507	1
10. Witchampton	478	201	1
TOTALS	7,933	4,879	13
Declared to take place from and after 28th September 1835.			

COUNTY OF ESSEX.

PARISHES UNITED. (Essex.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
BILLERICAY UNION:		£.	
1. Great Burstead	1,977	1,031	2
2. Brentwood	1,642	956	2
3. South Weald	1,183	778	2
4. Mountnessing	796	630	1
5. Shenfield	665	340	1
6. South Benfleet	533	289	1
7. Thundersley	526	328	1
8. Ramsden Bellhouse	438	413	1
9. East Horndon	438	264	1
10. Laindon	412	553	1
11. Wickford	402	221	1
12. Ingrave	402	337	1
13. Hutton	381	159	1
14. North Benfleet	300	179	1
15. Pitsea	276	243	1
16. Ramsden Crays	272	212	1
17. Downham	271	234	1
18. Childerditch	251	228	1
19. Bowers Gifford	231	155	1
20. Little Burstead	204	255	1
21. Nevendon	181	97	1
22. Vange	165	74	1
23. Little Warley	163	177	1
24. Dunton	133	187	1
25. Basildon	124	130	1
26. West Horndon	63	89	1
Totals	12,529	8,559	29

Declared to take place from and after 10th October 1835.

BRAINTREE UNION:			
1. Braintree	3,422	2,187	4
2. Bocking	3,128	3,210	4
3. Finchingfield	2,101	2,272	2
4. Weathersfield	1,698	1,880	2
5. Stisted	895	552	1
6. Shalford	701	326	1
7. Cressing	551	493	1
8. Black Notley	486	373	1
9. White Notley	453	391	1
10. Great Saling	367	425	1
11. Pattiswick	341	266	1
12. Rayne	320	485	1
13. Bradwell	318	254	1
14. Panfield	316	334	1
Totals	15,097	13,448	22

Declared to take place from and after 16th December 1835.

COLCHESTER UNION:			
1. St. Botolph	2,560	1,499	2
2. St. Peter	1,834	1,266	2
3. St. Giles	1,606	1,136	2
4. St. James	1,439	992	2
5. St. Mary-at-the-Walls	1,314	854	2
6. Lexden	1,184	730	1
7. St. Martin	1,035	433	1
8. St. Nicholas	1,035	655	1
9. St. Leonard	983	521	1
10. Holy Trinity	612	353	1
11. Greenstead	598	279	1
12. St. Michael-Mile-end	477	454	1
13. St. Remwald	461	333	1
14. St. Mary Magdalen	449	212	1
15. All Saints	438	280	1
16. Bere-church	142	158	1
Totals	16,167	10,155	21

Declared to take place from and after 19th October 1836.

EPPING UNION:			
1. Epping	2,313	1,400	2
2. Harlow	2,101	1,241	2
3. Chigwell	1,815	1,435	2
4. Loughton	1,269	569	2
5. Chingford	963	555	1
Epping Union—*continued.*		£.	
6. North Weald Bassett	887	336	1
7. Thoydon Garnon	841	470	1
8. Nazeing	757	623	1
9. Thoydon Bois	676	431	1
10. Matching	621	680	1
11. Sheering	547	275	1
12. Roydon	503	363	1
13. Latton	319	206	1
14. Netswell	316	127	1
15. Great Parndon	296	361	1
16. Roydon Hamlet	214	232	1
17. Magdalen Laver	206	210	1
18. Little Parndon	90	100	1
Totals	14,734	9,614	23

Declared to take place from and after 16th January 1836.

HALSTEAD UNION:			
1. Halstead	4,637	4,046	4
2. Sible Hedingham	2,194	3,169	2
3. Castle Hedingham	1,220	1,418	2
4. Toppesfield	1,088	1,511	2
5. Earl's Colne	1,319	930	2
6. Colne Engain	618	680	1
7. White Colne	384	488	1
8. Ridgewell	713	907	1
9. Pebmarsh	642	674	1
10. Great Mapplestead	446	559	1
11. Little Mapplestead	373	238	1
12. Great Teldam	673	568	1
13. Little Teldam	371	172	1
14. Gosfield	512	555	1
15. Stambourne	475	533	1
16. Tilbury-juxta-Clare	236	373	1
Totals	15,901	16,821	23

Declared to take place from and after 6th November 1835.

LEXDEN AND WINSTREE UNION:			
1. Dedham	1,770	1,360	2
2. Wivenhoe	1,714	756	2
3. West Mersea	847	579	1
4. Boxted	832	779	1
5. Langham	821	782	1
6. West Bergholt	786	403	1
7. Birch	764	784	1
8. Fordham	727	677	1
9. Great Harksley	697	952	1
10. East Donyland	692	373	1
11. Great Tey	682	764	1
12. Stanway	665	668	1
13. Layer-de-la-Hay	637	604	1
14. Copford	611	737	1
15. Wormingford	543	469	1
16. Fingringhoe	542	356	1
17. Great Wigborough	434	391	1
18. Peldon	424	281	1
19. Aldham	407	373	1
20. Chappel	390	361	1
21. Marks Tey	363	183	1
22. East Mersea	300	197	1
23. Layer Marney	275	239	1
24. Layer Breton	262	183	1
25. Abberton	202	229	1
26. Easthorpe	167	222	1
27. Salcott	154	104	1
28. Langenhoe	146	100	1
29. Little Wigborough	123	46	1
30. Virley	65	37	1
31. Little Tey	58	92	1
32. Brightlingsea	1,784	1,232	2
33. Little Harksley	228	386	1
34. Wakes Colne	442	800	1
35. Mount Bures	262	390	1
Totals	19,811	16,889	38

Declared to take place from and after 1st February 1836.

UNITED PARISHES. (Essex.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
MALDON UNION:		£.	
1. St. Peter's	1,870	1,166	2
2. St. Mary's	1,146	553	2
3. All Saints	815	637	1
4. Southminster	1,422	1,142	2
5. Burnham	1,393	1,046	2
6. Tollesbury	1,066	832	1
7. Heybridge	1,064	399	1
8. Purleigh	1,044	897	1
9. Tillingham	970	573	1
10. Bradwell	956	639	1
11. Great Totham	696	689	1
12. Tolleshunt, D'arcy	690	560	1
13. Woodham-Mortimer	339	164	1
14. Woodham-Walter	538	363	1
15. Steeple	497	350	1
16. Goldhanger	496	343	1
17. Tolleshunt, Major	423	427	1
18. Tolleshunt, Knights	374	405	1
19. Althorn	352	296	1
20. Little Totham	306	216	1
21. Mundon	273	283	1
22. Langford	273	185	1
23. Dengre	249	382	1
24. Stow Maries	242	287	1
25. Latchingdon	229	275	1
26. Cold Norton	216	109	1
27. St. Lawrence	182	185	1
28. Creeksea	154	57	1
29. North Fambridge	148	77	1
30. Asheldham	144	298	1
31. Hazeleigh	119	137	1
32. Mayland	226	264	1
Totals	18,917	14,236	36

Declared to take effect from and after the 14th Dec. 1835.

ONGAR UNION:		Average for the Years 1834,-35,-36.	
1. High Ongar	1,205	782	2
2. Chipping Ongar	798	287	2
3. Stamford Rivers	905	213	2
4. Navestock	852	397	1
5. Lamborne	778	325	1
6. Blackmore	648	262	1
7. High Laver	495	218	1
8. Berners Roothing	100	105	1
9. Beauchamp Roothing	238	136	1
10. Abbotts Roothing	234	184	1
11. Stapleford Abbotts	507	209	1
12. Stapleford Tawney	297	125	1
13. Moreton	431	239	1
14. Kelvedon Hatch	361	282	1
15. Doddinghurst	372	144	1
16. Fyfield	572	297	1
17. Willingale-Doe	466	269	1
18. Willingale-Spain	239	99	1
19. Norton Mandeville	114	65	1
20. Shelley	163	91	1
21. Bobbingworth	277	150	1
22. Stondon Massey	299	123	1
23. Thorgdon Mount	249	198	1
24. Shellow Bowels	143	33	1
25. Greenstead	134	79	1
26. Little Laver	112	129	1
Totals	10,989	5,441	29

Declared to take place from and after 8th April 1836.

ORSETT UNION:		Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	
1. Orsett	1,274	852	3
2. Grays Thurrock	1,248	492	2
3. South Ockendon	816	431	1
4. West Thurrock	804	586	1
5. Aveley	758	473	1
6. Horndon-on-the-Hill	511	447	1
7. Fobbing	391	398	1
8. Stanford-le-Hope	330	319	1
9. Little Thurrock	302	148	1
10. North Ockendon	294	202	1
11. West Tilbury	276	118	1
12. Stifford	274	184	1
13. East Tilbury	245	230	1
14. Bulpham	236	246	1
15. Corringham	234	199	1
16. Langdon Hills	224	217	1
17. Mucking	212	181	1
18. Chadwell, St. Mary's	180	174	1
Totals	8,609	5,897	21

Declared to take effect from and after the 10th October 1835.

ROCHFORD UNION:			
1. Rochford	1,526	917	2
2. Prittlewell	2,266	1,529	2
3. Rayleigh	1,339	858	2
4. Leigh	1,254	590	1
5. Great Wakering	834	734	1
6. Hockley	777	641	1
7. Canewdon	675	580	1
8. Eastwood	531	705	1
9. Paglesham	450	247	1
10. Great Stambridge	405	330	1
11. Southchurch	401	299	1
12. Hadleigh	365	188	1
13. Hawkwell	329	149	1
14. Rawreth	321	390	1
15. Barling	317	177	1
16. Little Wakering	297	275	1
17. North Shoebury	226	157	1
18. South Shoebury	202	231	1
19. Little Stambridge	105	86	1
20. Ashingdon	98	72	1
21. Sutton	96	147	1
22. South Fambridge	91	60	1
23. Shopland	48	123	1
Totals	12,953	9,485	26

Declared to take effect from and after the 30th October 1835.

ROMFORD UNION:			
1. Romford	4,294	2,120	5
2. Barking	8,036	4,817	8
3. Hornchurch	2,186	1,855	3
4. Dagenham	2,118	1,145	2
5. Upminster	1,033	792	1
6. Rainham	671	459	1
7. Great Warley	424	302	1
8. Havering-atte-Bower	332	208	1
9. Cranham	300	145	1
10. Wennington	127	115	1
Totals	19,521	11,958	24

Declared to take place from and after 31st May 1836.

TENDRING UNION:			
1. Thorpe-le-Soken	1,173	1,026	2
2. St. Osyth	1,583	1,431	2
3. Ardleigh	1,545	1,590	2
4. Manningtree	1,237	739	2
5. Great Clacton	1,149	909	1
6. Great Oakley	1,118	828	1
7. Great Bentley	978	627	1
8. Kirby	972	742	1
9. Bradfield	964	870	1
10. Mistley	876	1,467	2
11. Wix	832	843	1
12. Lawford	794	615	1
13. Tendring	758	646	1
14. Elmstead	732	459	1
15. Ramsey	708	752	1
16. Great Bromley	697	474	1
17. Weeley	573	404	1
18. Little Clacton	546	513	1
19. Walton-le-Soken	469	221	1
20. Beaumont-with-Moze	452	482	1

PARISHES UNITED. (Essex.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
Tendring Union—*continued.*		£.	
21. Little Bentley	488	322	1
22. Thorrington	431	233	1
23. Great Holland	425	552	1
24. Little Bromley	383	257	1
25. Alresford	297	214	1
26. Frating	269	230	1
27. Wratness	248	183	1
28. Little Oakley	244	75	1
29. Little Holland	76	95	1
30. Frinton	35	51	1
Totals	21,002	17,850	35

Declared to take place from and after 16th November 1835.

WEST HAM UNION:			
1. West Ham	11,580	6,441	10
2. Walthamstow	1,258	2,682	4
3. Low Leyton	3,323	1,875	3
4. Woodford, St. Mary	2,548	1,327	2
5. East Ham	1,543	1,219	2
6. Wanstead	1,403	1,110	2
7. Little Ilford	115	60	1
Totals	24,770	14,714	24

Declared to take place from and after 31st May 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (Essex.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
WITHAM UNION:		£.	
1. Witham	2,735	869	3
2. Great Coggeshall	3,227	2,041	3
3. Kelvedon	1,463	1,091	2
4. Hatfield Peverill	1,313	1,002	2
5. Terling	892	520	1
6. Messing	775	532	1
7. Feering	735	703	1
8. Rivenhall	653	694	1
9. Great Braxted	471	362	1
10. Little Coggeshall	455	324	1
11. Inworth	443	350	1
12. Wickham Bishop	549	335	1
13. Fairstead	258	202	1
14. Faulkbourn	161	145	1
15. Ulting	158	184	1
16. Little Braxted	92	106	1
17. Mark's Hall	52	77	1
Totals	14,432	9,537	23

Declared to take place from and after 15th December 1835.

COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.

CHELTENHAM UNION:			
1. Cheltenham	22,942	3,765	10
2. Charlton Kings	2,478	378	3
3. Leckhampton	929	139	2
4. Swindon	225	85	1
5. Prestbury	1,231	321	2
6. Uckington	175	114	1
7. Staverton	245	107	1
8. Badgworth	859	358	2
9. Whitcombe, Great	174	66	1
10. Shurdington	99	43	1
11. Cowley	323	213	1
12. Cubberley	181	133	1
13. Upbatherly	21	48	1
Totals	29,882	5,770	27

Declared to take place from and after 16th November 1835.

CHIPPING SODBURY UNION:			
1. Chipping Sodbury	1,306	609	2
2. Marshfield	1,651	503	2
3. Dirham and Hinton	516	224	1
4. Old Sodbury	729	451	1
5. Dodington	113	168	1
6. Tormarton	402	128	1
7. West Littleton	128	113	1
8. Cold Ashton	322	131	1
9. Pucklechurch	796	221	1
10. Yate	824	445	1
11. Wapley-with-Codrington	253	89	1
12. Westerleigh	1,709	859	2
13. Frampton Cotterell	1,816	828	2
14. Iron Acton	1,372	628	2
15. Acton Turville	236	95	1
16. Great Badminton	529	243	1
17. Alderley	200	223	1
18. Wickwar	972	415	1
19. Little Sodbury	126	85	1
20. Hawkesbury	2,182	1,737	2
21. Horton	477	263	1
22. Abson-with-Wick	824	309	1
23. Doynton	448	154	1
Totals	17,931	8,921	29

Declared to take place from and after 30th March 1836.

CIRENCESTER UNION:			
County of Gloucester:			
1. Cirencester	5,420	2,190	4
2. Preston	196	63	1
3. Siddington	409	272	1
4. South Cerney	980	617	1
5. Harnhill	71	40	1
6. Driffield	146	146	1
7. Coates	343	149	1
8. Stratton	468	127	1
9. Daglingworth	239	192	1
10. Baunton	144	93	1
11. Dunsborne Abbotts	126	202	1
12. Dunsborne Lyre	282	86	1
13. Winston	164	33	1
14. Badgington	167	147	1
15. Down Ampney	463	256	1
16. Ampney St. Mary	115	167	1
17. Ampney St. Peter	130	106	1
18. Ampney Crucis	599	290	1
19. Maisey Hampton	364	175	1
20. Barnsley	318	197	1
21. North Cerney	622	379	1
22. Rendcomb	218	202	1
23. Syde	50	46	1
24. Brimpsfield	382	217	1
25. Elkstone	299	170	1
26. Colesborne	252	125	1
27. Edgeworth	116	81	1
28. Sapperton	453	261	1
29. Rednarton	369	215	1
30. Kempsford and Welsford	885	982	1
31. Fairford	1,574	1,179	2
32. Heatherop	326	217	1
33. Quennington	365	250	1
County of Wilts:			
34. Kemble	482	201	1
35. Marston Maisey	240	145	1
36. Poulton	368	174	1
37. Poole Keynes	169	118	1
38. Somerford Keynes	327	225	1
39. Shorncote	29	42	1
Totals	18,720	10,777	43

Declared to take place from and after 21st January 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (GLOUCESTER.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
CLIFTON UNION:			
Borough of the City of Bristol and County of the same City:		£.	
1. Clifton	12,032	5,174	6
2. Out parish of St. James and St. Paul	4,495	1,104	2
3. Out parish of St. Philip and St. Jacob, Westbury-upon-Trym (part of)	15,777	4,510	7
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER:			
4. Westbury-upon-Trym (part of)	4,263	1,318	3
5. Horfield	328	122	1
6. Stapleton	2,715	874	2
7. St. George	6,285	2,201	4
8. Filton	217	119	1
9. Stoke Gifford	441	201	1
10. Compton Greenfield	40	46	1
11. Winterbourne	2,889	1,255	2
12. Henbury	1,863	939	2
TOTALS	51,345	17,863	32

Declared to take place from and after 9th April 1836.

DURSLEY UNION:			
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER:			
1. Dursley	3,226	1,861	3
2. Cam	2,071	1,600	2
3. Couley	1,124	638	1
4. Nymphsfield	434	325	1
5. Owlpen	455	373	1
6. Kimbridge	923	515	1
7. Hinchcombe	352	388	1
8. Uley	2,642	1,408	2
9. Wotton-under-Edge	5,482	1,999	4
10. North Nibley	1,562	900	2
COUNTY OF WILTS:			
11. Kingswood	1,447	924	2
TOTALS	19,518	10,931	20

Declared to take place from and after the 4th April 1836.

NEWENT UNION:			
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER:			
1. Newent	2,359	1,224	4
2. Preston	79	37	1
3. Bromsberrow	337	258	1
4. Dymock	1,656	484	2
5. Kempley	302	124	1
6. Oxenhall	306	185	1
7. Pauntley	263	165	1
8. Taynton	555	160	1
9. Rudford	103	83	1
10. Highleadon	106	50	1
11. Hartpury	880	532	2
12. Upleadon	241	166	1
13. Tibberton	307	104	1
14. Corse	416	323	1
COUNTY OF HEREFORD:			
15. Linton	636	441	2
16. Aston Ingham	551	211	1
COUNTY OF WORCESTER:			
17. Red Marley D'Abitot	1,050	386	2
18. Staunton	372	160	1
TOTALS	11,049	5,095	25

Declared to take place from and after 23d September 1835.

PARISHES UNITED. (GLOUCESTER.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
NORTHLEACH UNION:		£.	
1. Northleach	795	251	2
2. Hampnett	187	60	1
3. Tuckdean	237	112	1
4. Fannington	311	264	1
5. Hazleton	164	83	1
6. Yanworth	123	96	1
7. Howell	43	88	1
8. Shipton Oliffe	229	105	1
9. Shipton Solars	98	93	1
10. Compton Atdale	188	92	1
11. Dowdeswell	232	166	1
12. Wishington	743	429	2
13. Wittington	247	112	1
14. Cheddworth	1,026	644	2
15. Coln St. Dennis	176	153	1
16. Coln Rogers	135	54	1
17. Winsor	176	86	1
18. East Leach Turville	370	256	1
19. East Leach Martin	159	210	1
20. Aldsworth	353	142	1
21. Sherborne	767	336	1
22. Windrush	291	254	1
23. Little Barrington	162	231	1
24. Eastington	266	321	1
25. Sevenhampton	465	151	1
26. Salperton	216	110	1
27. Bibury	774	389	1
28. Southrop	350	316	1
29. Aston Blank	295	166	1
30. Coln St. Aldwin's	441	296	1
TOTALS	10,019	6,066	33

Declared to take place from and after the 18th January 1836.

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD UNION:			
COUNTIES OF GLOUCESTER AND WORCESTER:			
1. Stow-on-the-Wold	1,240	535	2
2. Mangersbury	370	182	1
3. Donnington	200	106	1
4. Broadwell	334	128	1
5. Upper Swell	95	59	1
6. Lower Swell	298	115	1
7. Addlestrop	193	142	1
8. Bleddington	335	212	1
9. Condicote	142	61	1
10. Eyford	55	41	1
11. Oddington	539	264	1
12. Westcote	183	87	1
13. Evenlode	312	114	1
14. Dalesford	88	54	1
15. Longborough	619	360	1
16. Bourton-on-Water	858	407	2
17. Clapton	109	90	1
18. Great Rissington	468	136	1
19. Little Rissington	231	144	1
20. Wick Rissington	219	135	1
21. Upper Slaughter	260	150	1
22. Lower Slaughter	258	214	1
23. Naunton	797	301	1
24. Notgrove	166	99	1
25. Great Berrington	532	350	1
26. Seizincote	51	125	1
27. Teccomb, Worcestershire	148	14	1
28. Teccomb, Gloucestershire		57	1
TOTALS	9,105	4,682	30

Declared to take place from and after the 25th January 1836.

STROUD UNION:			
1. Stroud	8,607	2,925	5
2. Stonehouse	2,469	997	2
3. Randwick	1,031	480	1
4. Pitchcombe	224	45	1
5. Painswick	4,099	1,708	3
6. Cranham	394	98	1
7. Miserdine	441	225	1
8. Bisley	5,896	1,922	3

(continued)

PARISHES UNITED. (GLOUCESTER.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
STROUD UNION—*continued.*		£.	
9. Minchinhampton	5,114	1,378	3
10. Woodchester	885	350	1
11. Horsley	3,690	1,140	3
12. Leonard Stanley	942	360	1
13. King Stanley	2,438	964	2
14. Rodborough	2,141	773	2
15. Avening-with-Nailsworth	2,396	695	2
TOTALS	40,767	14,060	31

Declared to take place from and after 2d April 1836.

TETBURY UNION:			
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER:			
1. Tetbury	2,939	1,448	3
2. Shipton Moyne	389	241	1
3. Weston Birt-with-Lasborough	138	150	1
4. Ozleworth	152	181	1
5. Beverstone	174	41	1
6. Oldbury-on-the-Hill	414	247	1
7. Didmarton	103	53	1
8. Kingscote	276	180	1
9. Cheringron	251	160	1
10. Newington Bagpath	258	229	1
11. Boxwell-with-Leighterton	297	96	1
COUNTY OF WILTS:			
12. Ashley	99	40	1
13. Long Newnton	307	150	1
TOTALS	5,797	3,216	15

Declared to take place from and after 31st March 1836.

TEWKESBURY UNION:			
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER:			
1. Tewkesbury	5,780	2,523	5
2. Walton Cardiff	57	40	1
3. Ashchurch	649	634	1
4. Oxenton	166	68	1
5. Woolstone	92	22	1
6. Tredington	132	96	1
7. Elmstone Hardwicke	197	163	1
8. Boddington	421	219	1
9. Leigh	355	165	1
10. Deerhurst	869	616	2
11. Tirley	498	267	1
12. Kemerton	599	276	1
13. Hasfield	245	98	1
14. Forthampton	459	293	1
15. Twyning	942	497	2
16. Stoke Orchard	229	87	1
COUNTY OF WORCESTER:			
17. Pendock	302	177	1
18. Chaceley	354	303	1
19. Bredon	960	780	2
20. Norton-by-Bredon	199	144	1
21. Overbury	447	119	1
22. Teddington	129	78	1
23. Conderton	112	45	1
TOTALS	14,193	7,710	30

Declared to take place from and after 16th November 1835.

THORNBURY UNION:			
1. Thornbury	4,044	1,385	4
2. Rungeworthy	331	90	1
3. Elberton	199	72	1
4. Olveston	1,523	486	2
5. Alveston	800	223	1
6. Almondsbury	1,492	611	2
7. Littleton-upon-Severn	179	64	1
8. Tytherington	476	230	1
9. Rockhampton	220	135	1
10. Hill	257	159	1
11. Charfield	487	202	1
12. Cromhall Abbots and Cromhall Lygon	761	240	1
13. Tortworth	266	225	1
14. Northwick with Redwick Chapelry	285	118	1
15. Aust Chapelry	203	57	1
Parish of Berkeley:			
16. Berkeley	901	349	1
17. Alkington	167	747	1
18. Breadstone	121	128	1
19. Hamfallow	645	385	1
20. Hinton	162	155	1
21. Ham and Stone	903	580	1
TOTALS	15,422	6,641	26

Declared to take place from and after 5th April 1836.

WESTBURY UNION:			
1. Westbury	2,032	855	3
2. Longhope	873	296	2
3. Huntley	464	165	1
4. Mitchelldean	601	192	1
5. Abinghall	235	161	1
6. Littledean	617	228	1
7. Flaxley	186	120	1
8. Blaisdon	255	74	1
9. Minsteworth	496	188	1
10. Churcham	581	271	1
11. Bulley	216	110	1
12. Newnham	1,074	366	2
13. Awre	1,030	460	2
TOTALS	8,760	3,466	18

Declared to take place from and after 28th September 1835.

WHEATENHURST UNION:			
1. Arlingham	744	305	2
2. Fretherne	224	99	1
3. Frocester	414	257	1
4. Frampton-on-Severn	1,055	419	2
5. Saul	443	154	1
6. Wheatenhurst or Whitminster	423	152	1
7. Lougney	453	310	1
8. Hardwicke	459	186	1
9. Harescomb	121	48	1
10. Standish	536	315	1
11. Brockthrop	193	65	1
12. Noreton Valence	324	167	1
13. Eastington	1,770	834	3
14. Harefield	611	295	1
TOTALS	7,770	3,606	18

Declared to take place from and after 21st September 1835.

WINCHCOMB UNION:			
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER:			
1. Winchcomb	2,514	1,207	3
2. Bishop's Cleve	1,642	162	1
3. Gotherington		133	1
4. Southam		158	1
5. Prescott		18	1
6. Woodmancott		79	1
7. Alderton and Dixon	330	131	1
8. Toddington	290	124	1
9. Dumbleton	420	178	1
10. Didbrook	240	218	1
11. Pinnock-in-Hyde	47	42	1
12. Hailes	123	116	1

PARISHES UNITED. (GLOUCESTER.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of Elected Guardians.
WINCHCOMB UNION—*continued.*		£.	
13. Sudeley	84	157	1
14. Charlton Abbots	111	45	1
15. Rowell	38	10	1
16. Hawling	202	131	1
17. Lower Guiting	520	379	1
18. Wormington	96	47	1
19. Staunton	293	158	1
20. Stanway	401	227	1
21. Stanley Polt Large	62	45	1
22. Temple Guiting	792	301	1
23. Beckford	433	131	1
24. Great Washbourne	87	33	1
25. Snowshill	292	212	1
26. Buckland	403	240	1
27. Grafton (in Beckford)		95	1
COUNTY OF WORCESTER:			
28. Cuttesdean	166	50	1
29. Little Washbourne	51	19	1
30. Alstone	78	65	1
TOTALS	9,715	4,911	32

Declared to take place from and after 16th January 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (GLOUCESTER.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1832,-33,-34.	Number of Elected Guardians.
ADDITION made since the First Annual Report to the			
GLOUCESTER UNION:			
From 1st Annual Report, page 405,		£.	
35 Parishes	21,368	6,931	49
* 36. Ashleworth	540	171	1
* 37. Brockworth	390	184	1
TOTALS	22,298	7,286	51

* Addition to take place from and after 14th December 1835. The averages for the two parishes added are estimated on the years 1833-34-35.

COUNTY OF HEREFORD.

BROMYARD UNION: COUNTY OF HEREFORD:		Average for the Years 1834,-35,-36.	
1. Bromyard	1,434	600	2
2. Avenbury	344	228	1
3. Bridenbury	54	34	1
4. Collington	160	59	1
5. Little Cowarne	180	70	1
6. Much Cowarne	573	290	1
7. Cradley	1,509	492	2
8. Edwin Ralph	170	124	1
9. Evesbach	84	45	1
10. Felton	122	76	1
11. Bishops Frome	948	293	1
12. Grendon Bishop	229	80	1
13. Grendon Warren	included in Pencombe.	2	1
14. Hampton Charles	91	38	1
15. Linton	500	146	1
16. Moreton Jeffries	46	28	1
17. Norton with Brockhampton	667	176	1
18. Ocle Pychard	236	105	1
19. Pencombe	521	198	1
20. Upper Sapey	357	118	1
21. Stanford Bishop	362	102	1
22. Stoke Lacy	381	143	1
23. Tedstone Delamere	230	103	1
24. Tedstone Wafer	91	18	1
25. Thornbury	212	103	1
26. Ullingswick	293	85	1
27. Wacton	112	40	1
28. Whitbourne	899	232	1
29. Winslow	450	283	1
30. Wolferlow	134	53	1
COUNTY OF WORCESTER:			
31. Acton Beauchamp	239	236	1
32. Edwin Loach	62	49	1
33. Lower Sapey or Sapey Pritchard	250	73	1
TOTALS	11,940	4,722	35

Declared to take place from and after 30th May 1836.

HEREFORD UNION:		Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	
1. Aconbury	163	44	1
2. Amberley (Township of Marden)	25	81	1
3. Bartestree (Chapelry of Dormington)	50	34	1
4. Birch (Much)	489	98	1
HEREFORD UNION—*continued.*			
5. Birch (Little)	351	105	1
6. Boulston	86	33	1
7. Breinton	290	279	1
8. Bullingham (Upper)	120	60	1
9. Bullingham (Lower Township of St. Martin's)	277	163	1
10. Burghill & Tillington	856	598	1
11. Callow	148	46	1
12. Clehonger	365	258	1
13. Credenhill	235	157	1
14. Dewchurch (Much)	573	342	1
15. Dewchurch (Little)	369	93	1
16. Dewsall	44	17	1
17. Dindor	314	152	1
18. Dormington	98	114	1
19. Fownhope	1,006	569	1
20. Grafton (Township of St. Martin's)	56	47	1
21. Hampton Bishop	241	114	1
22. All Saints (City of Hereford.)	2,905	648	3
23. St. John Baptist (City of Hereford.)	1,355	728	2
24. St. Martin (City of Hereford.)	1,020	394	2
25. St. Nicholas (City of Hereford.)	1,134	481	2
26. St. Owen (City of Hereford.)	1,623	548	2
27. St. Peter (City of Hereford.)	2,247	1,064	3
28. Holmer and Shelwich	487	401	1
29. Horn Lacy	430	331	1
30. Huntington (Township of Holmer)	69	77	1
31. Kenchester	118	99	1
32. Lugwardine	662	324	1
33. Marden	896	399	1
34. Mordiford	635	128	1
35. Morton-on-Lug	69	76	1
36. Pipe and Lyde	131	74	1
37. Preston Wynne (Chapelry of Withington)	139	67	1
38. Stoke Edith	309	174	1
39. Stretton Sugwas	155	52	1
40. Sutton St. Michael & Sutton St. Nicholas	332	110	1
41. Tupsley (Township of Hampton Bishop)	512	288	1
42. Wellington	630	225	1
43. Westhide	196	55	1
44. Weston Beggard	281	55	1
45. Withington	584	150	1
TOTALS	23,075	10,352	53

Declared to take place from and after 28th April 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (HEREFORD.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of Elected Guardians.
KINGTON UNION:			
COUNTY OF HEREFORD:		£.	
1. Kington	3,111	1,369	3
2. Brilley	539	327	1
3. Eardisley	825	601	1
4. Lower Harton	68	45	1
5. Huntington	264	164	1
6. Lyonshall or Lynhales	880	504	1
7. Pembridge	1,293	659	2
8. Staunton-on-Arrow	393	244	1
9. Titley	328	174	1
10. Willersley	13	5	1
11. Winforton	158	108	1
COUNTY OF RADNOR:			
12. Colva	233	154	1
13. Ednol	45	14	1
14. Evenjobb, Newcastle, Barland and Burva	369	199	1
15. Gladestry	385	240	1
16. Glascwm	514	358	1
17. Harpton	212	59	1
18. Kinnerton, Salford and Badland	246	123	1
19. Llandegley	355	208	1
20. Llanfihangel Nant Melan	284	80	1
21. Michaelchurch-on-Arrow	159	119	1
22. Newchurch	164	94	1
23. New Radnor	472	213	1
24. Old Radnor and Burlinjobb	400	130	1
25. Trewern and Gwithla	126	66	1
26. Walton and Womaston	186	168	1
TOTALS	12,022	6,425	29

Declared to take place from and after 25th August 1836.

		Average for the Years 1834,-35,-36.	
LEDBURY UNION:			
COUNTY OF HEREFORD:			
1. Ledbury	3,852	1,806	4
2. Ashperton	429	149	1
3. Aylton	126	44	1
4. Bosbury	1,061	608	2
5. Coddington	164	130	1
6. Colwall	909	348	1
7. Donnington	124	66	1
8. Eastnor	493	222	1
9. Eggleton (Township of Bishop's Frome)	153	38	1
10. Canon Frome	98	109	1
11. Castle Frome	223	141	1
12. Much Marcle	1,001	296	2
13. Little Marcle	143	64	1
14. Parkhold (Township)	57	34	1
15. Pixley	110	89	1
16. Putley	165	61	1
17. Munsley	178	121	1
18. Stretton Grandsome	168	158	1
19. Tarrington	540	260	1
20. Woolhope	880	414	1
21. Yarkhill	409	210	1
COUNTY OF WORCESTER:			
22. Mathon	690	310	1
TOTALS	11,973	5,678	27

Declared to take place from and after 2d June 1836.

		Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	
LEOMINSTER UNION:			
1. Leominster Borough	4,300	1,218	4
2. Leominster out-Parish	949	603	2
3. Aymestrey	1,006	500	2
4. Bodenham	998	400	2
5. Croft	33	18	1
6. Docklow	199	60	1
7. Eye	299	156	1
8. Eyton	177	72	1
9. Fordsbridge, or Hamlet of Ford	33	16	1
10. Hatfield	155	71	1
LEOMINSTER UNION—*contd.*			
11. Hope-under-Dinmore	555	359	1
12. Humber	219	93	1
13. Kimbolton	719	267	1
14. Kingsland	1,074	491	2
15. Laysters-on-Leysters	212	154	1
16. Lucton	174	79	1
17. Luston (Township of Eye)	421	149	1
18. Middleton-on-the-Hill	413	250	1
19. Monkland	180	47	1
20. Newton (Hamlet of Croft)	95	57	1
21. Orleston	586	274	1
22. Puddlestone	268	69	1
23. Stoke Prior	478	166	1
24. Shobdon	536	287	1
25. Yarpole	651	166	1
TOTALS	14,730	6,022	32

Declared to take place from and after 15th June 1836.

ROSS UNION:			
COUNTY OF HEREFORD:			
1. Ballingham	147	102	1
2. Brampton Abbots	218	177	1
3. Bridstow	596	362	1
4. Brockhampton	153	56	1
5. Foy	290	306	1
6. Goodrich	792	374	1
7. Harewood	85	52	1
8. Hentland	618	368	1
9. Hope Mansell	141	38	1
10. How Caple	137	109	1
11. King's Caple	280	127	1
12. Lea (Part of)	87	84	1
13. Llandinabo	53	55	1
14. Llangaran	1,125	504	2
15. Llanwarne	390	205	1
16. Marstow	125	96	1
17. Pencoyd	183	91	1
18. Peterston	261	222	1
19. Ross	3,078	873	4
20. Sellack	327	134	1
21. Sollers Hope	179	57	1
22. Tretire with Michaelchurch	120	104	1
23. Walford	1,155	356	2
24. Weston under Penyard	639	408	1
25. St. Weonards	564	363	1
26. Upton Bishop	626	300	1
27. Yatton	211	68	1
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER:			
28. Lea (Part of)	74	21	1
29. Lea Bailey Hamlet	108	42	1
TOTALS	12,762	6,054	34

Declared to take place from and after 12th April 1836.

WEOBLEY UNION:			
1. Almeley	670	404	1
2. Birley	147	69	1
3. Bishopstone	278	111	1
4. Bridge Sollers	71	85	1
5. Brinsop	112	83	1
6. Brobury	62	22	1
7. Byford	187	142	1
8. Dilwyn	1,035	556	2
9. Eardisland	813	459	2
10. Kimmersley	351	205	1
11. Mansell Gamage	171	63	1
12. Mansell Lacy	318	154	1
13. Monnington	104	76	1
14. Norton (Canon)	338	168	1
15. Pyon (Canon)	663	359	1
16. Pyon (King's)	359	240	1
17. Sarnesfield	98	70	1
18. Stretford	44	11	1
19. Weobley	819	361	2
20. Wormsley	102	88	1
21. Yazor	196	82	1
TOTALS	6,938	3,808	24

Declared to take place from and after 9th April 1836.

COUNTY OF HERTFORD.

PARISHES UNITED. (HERTFORD.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1832,-33,-34.	Number of Elected Guardians.
ADDITION made since the First Annual Report, to the BARNET UNION:			
From 1st Annual Report, page 404,		£.	
9 Parishes	8,970	5,486	14
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX:			
*10. Finchley	3,210	1,497	1
TOTALS	12,180	6,983	15

* Addition to take place from and after 16th May 1836. The average for the parish of Finchley is estimated on the Years 1833–34–35.

COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON.

HUNTINGDON UNION:		Average of the Years 1833,-34,-35.	
1. St. Benedict - (Town of Huntingdon.)	773	300	1
2. St. John - (Town of Huntingdon.)	982	386	1
3. St. Mary - (Town of Huntingdon.)	990	554	1
4. All Saints - (Town of Huntingdon.)	522	428	1
5. Alconbury	765	709	1
6. Alconbury Weston	441	268	1
7. Barham	73	32	1
8. Brampton	1,064	930	1
9. Buckworth	136	105	1
10. Coppingford	44	45	1
11. Easton	151	74	1
12. Ellington	376	344	1
13. Steeple Gedding	86	97	1
14. Humerton	129	99	1
15. Spaldwick	388	339	1
16. Upton	150	161	1
17. Wolley	58	47	1
18. Sawtry All Saints	510	398	1
19. Sawtry St. Andrew	320	309	1
20. Sawtry St. Judith	227	313	1
21. Wood Walton	305	164	1
22. Hartford	452	434	1
23. Ramsey	3,006	1,437	2
24. Abbots Ripton with Wennington	365	477	1
25. King's Ripton	279	85	1
26. Great Raveley	275	296	1
27. Little Raveley	54	97	1
28. Great Stukeley	397	400	1
29. Little Stukeley	413	202	1
30. Upwood	326	316	1
31. Godmanchester	2,146	1,451	2
32. Leighton Bromswold	452	377	1
33. Conington	204	108	1
TOTALS	16,859	11,782	35

Declared to take place from and after 19th January 1836.

ST. IVES UNION:			
COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON:			
1. St. Ives	3,314	1,929	3
2. Pedley-with-Fenton	406	221	1
3. Old Hurst	150	90	1
4. Colne	476	360	1
5. Holywell-with-Needingworth	951	585	1
6. Broughton	411	281	1
7. Wiston	404	242	1
8. Somersham	1,402	707	2
9. Bluntisham with Earith	1,381	802	2
10. Warboys	1,550	637	2
11. Woodhurst	408	199	1
12. Houghton	372	201	1
13. Bury	358	238	1
14. Hilton	365	310	1
15. Hemingford Grey	556	417	1
ST. IVES UNION—*continued.*			
16. Fenstaunton	968	622	1
17. Hemingford Abbots	484	342	1
18. Witton	277	375	1
COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE:			
19. Fen Drayton	319	305	1
20. Over	989	641	1
21. Swavesey	1,115	1,122	2
22. Boxworth	283	246	1
23. Lolworth	129	76	1
24. Connington	203	288	1
TOTALS	17,271	11,236	30

Declared to take place from and after 18th January 1836.

ST. NEOTT'S UNION:			
COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON:			
1. St. Neott's	2,617	2,669	2
2. Tetworth	183	336	1
3. Abbotsley	369	513	1
4. Waresley	241	142	1
5. Eynesbury	957	605	1
6. Toseland	161	109	1
7. Great Paxton	267	200	1
8. Little Paxton	310	223	1
9. Hail Weston	346	236	1
10. Southoe	283	272	1
11. Diddington	208	156	1
12. Great Staughton	1,191	1,080	2
13. Buckden	1,095	691	1
14. Graffham	281	195	1
15. Kimbolton	1,584	1,114	2
16. Stow	180	169	1
17. Little Catworth		43	1
18. Great Catworth	564	332	1
19. Swineshead	262	136	1
20. Offord Cluney	232	151	1
21. Offord Darcy	277	262	1
22. Midloe	36	48	1
COUNTY OF BEDFORD:			
23. Eaton Socon	2,490	2,628	2
24. Little Barford	176	49	1
25. Little Staughton	465	460	1
26. Pertenhall	373	215	1
27. Tillbrook	295	256	1
28. Dean	530	557	1
29. Shelton	132	48	1
COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE:			
30. Graveley	255	164	1
TOTALS	16,360	14,059	34

Declared to take place from and after 24th September 1835.

COUNTY OF KENT.

PARISHES UNITED. (KENT.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1834,-35,-36.	Number of Elected Guardians.
BROMLEY UNION:		£.	
1. Bromley	4,002	1,294	2
2. Beckenham	1,288	848	1
3. Chelsfield	796	598	1
4. Chiselhurst	1,820	977	1
5. Cray, Foots	308	260	1
6. Cray, North	342	297	1
7. Cray, St. Mary's	905	854	1
8. Cray, St. Paul's	411	356	1
9. Cudham	660	590	1
10. Down	421	139	1
11. Farnborough	638	230	1
12. Hayes	504	139	1
13. Keston	391	153	1
14. Knockholt	471	238	1
15. Orpington	842	760	1
16. Wickham, West	614	368	1
TOTALS	14,413	8,101	17

Declared to take place from and after 19th May 1836.

		Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	
CRANBROOK UNION:			
1. Benenden	1,663	1,483	2
2. Cranbrook	3,844	3,635	2
3. Frittenden	816	1,241	2
4. Goudhurst	2,758	2,554	2
5. Hawkhurst	2,428	1,950	2
6. Sandhurst	1,307	1,018	2
TOTALS	12,816	11,881	12

Declared to take place from and after 3rd November 1835.

		Average for the Years 1834,-35,-36.	
DARTFORD UNION:			
1. Dartford	4,715	1,729	2
2. Ash-next-Ridley	628	474	1
3. Bexley	3,206	1,776	2
4. Crayford	2,022	1,166	2
5. Darenth	588	345	1
6. Eynesford	1,277	1,035	1
7. Erith	1,533	988	1
8. Farningham	701	478	1
9. Fawkham	204	110	1
10. Hartley	182	109	1
11. Horton Kirby	666	327	1
12. Kingsdown	431	267	1
13. Longfield	125	69	1
14. Lullingstone	40	86	1
15. Ridley	91	67	1
16. Southfleet	624	439	1
17. Stone	719	241	1
18. Sutton-at-Hone	1,012	680	1
19. Swanscombe	1,166	382	1
20. Wickham, East	399	256	1
21. Wilmington	724	605	1
TOTALS	21,053	11,629	24

Declared to take place from and after 19th May 1836.

		Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35	
GRAVESEND AND MILTON UNION:			
1. Gravesend	5,097	3,410	4
2. Milton	4,348	2,108	4
TOTALS	9,445	5,518	8

Declared to take place from and after 9th September 1835.

HOLLINGBOURN UNION:			
1. Bicknor	44	48	1
2. Boxley	1,391	1,752	1
3. Bredhurst	147	141	1
4. Broomfield	129	125	1
5. Broughton Malherbe	478	1,194	1

PARISHES UNITED. (KENT.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34-35.	Number of Elected Guardians.
HOLLINGBOURN UNION—*continued.*		£.	
6. Chart next Sutton Valence	610	734	1
7. Debtling	372	234	1
8. East Sutton	379	400	1
9. Frinstead	193	368	1
10. Harrietsham	704	887	1
11. Headcorne	1,193	1,534	1
12. Hollingbourn	943	1,416	1
13. Hucking	139	231	1
14. Langley	244	395	1
15. Leeds	613	463	1
16. Lenham	2,197	3,331	1
17. Otterden	181	242	1
18. Stockbury	618	996	1
19. Sutton Valence	1,144	967	1
20. Thornham	571	541	1
21. Ulcomb	761	2,040	1
22. Witchling	128	127	1
23. Wormshill	186	234	1
TOTALS	13,365	18,400	23

Declared to take place from and after 12th October 1835.

HOO UNION:			
1. Allhallows	263	281	1
2. St. James (Isle of Grain)	240	272	1
3. High Halstow	351	330	1
4. Hoo	910	710	2
5. St. Mary	296	368	1
6. Stoke	432	305	1
7. Cooling	131	153	1
TOTALS	2,623	2,419	8

Declared to take place from and after 9th September 1835.

MAIDSTONE UNION:			
1. Maidstone	15,387	8,769	4
2. Berstead	594	587	1
3. Boughton Monchelsea	1,025	1,120	1
4. East Farleigh	1,461	743	1
5. West Farleigh	392	511	1
6. Hunton	765	776	1
7. Linton	723	581	1
8. Loose	1,061	391	1
9. Nettlested	344	554	1
10. Otham	344	304	1
11. Teston	255	232	1
12. Yalding	2,460	2,848	1
13. Marden	2,109	3,525	1
14. Staplehurst	1,484	2,870	1
15. Barming	565	232	1
TOTALS	28,969	24,043	18

Declared to take place from and after 15th October 1835.

MALLING UNION:			
1. Addington	206	190	1
2. Allington	37	90	1
3. Aylesford	1,301	1,280	1
4. Birling	502	440	1
5. Burham	287	250	1
6. Ditton	218	250	1
7. Ightham	1,017	660	1
8. Leybourne	299	340	1
9. East Malling	1,543	1,680	1
10. West Malling	1,459	690	1
11. Mereworth	782	1,390	1
12. Offham	262	220	1
13. East Peckham	2,018	2,320	1
14. West Peckham	536	560	1
15. Ryarsh	414	390	1
16. Shipborne	470	350	1
17. Snodland	518	450	1
18. Stanstead	262	210	1
19. Trottiscliffe	310	220	1
20. Woldham	247	210	1
21. Wateringbury	1,109	910	1
22. Wrotham	2,601	2,120	1
TOTALS	16,398	15,220	22

Declared to take place from and after 12th October 1835.

PARISHES UNITED. (KENT.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average of the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of Elected Guardians.
MEDWAY UNION:		£.	
1. Chatham	17,936	5,800	4
2. Gillingham	6,734	2,939	3
3. Grange	134	92	1
4. Cathedral Precincts (City of Rochester.)	138	- -	1
5. St. Nicholas (City of Rochester.)	3,050	1,725	2
6. St. Margaret's (City of Rochester.)	5,025	2,008	2
7. Lidsing (City of Rochester.)	51	82	1
TOTALS	33,068	12,646	14

Declared to take place from and after 7th September 1835.

NORTH AYLESFORD UNION:			
1. Chalk	333	196	1
2. Cliffe	832	876	1
3. Cobham	732	576	1
4. Cuxtone	298	251	1
5. Denton	131	90	1
6. Trindsbury	1,856	1,114	1
7. Halling	431	253	1
8. Higham	703	505	1
9. Ifield	72	56	1
10. Luddesdown	258	230	1
11. Meopham	911	849	1
12. Northfleet	2,124	1,310	1
13. Nursted	38	20	1
14. Shorne	730	534	1
15. Strood	2,722	1,630	1
TOTALS	12,171	8,490	15

Declared to take place from and after 7th September 1835.

ROMNEY MARSH UNION:			
1. Blackmanstone	5	26	1
2. Brenzett	258	214	1
3. Brookland	434	660	1
4. Burmarsh	105	182	1
5. Dymchurch	521	512	1
6. Eastbridge	16	26	1
7. Fairfield	89	238	1
8. Hope, All Saints	24	16	1
9. Ivy Church	198	400	1
10. Lydal	1,357	1,974	1
11. St. Mary's	111	181	1
12. Midley	52	29	1
13. New Church	241	700	1
14. New Romney	983	1,063	1
15. Old Romney	113	307	1
16. Orgarswick	8	9	1
17. Snargate	85	148	1
18. Snave	91	152	1
19. West Hythe	168	161	1
TOTALS	4,859	6,998	19

Declared to take place from and after 14th November 1835.

TENTERDEN UNION:			
1. Appledore	568	874	1
2. Biddenden	1,658	2,062	1
3. High Halden	649	789	1
4. Kenardington	186	353	1
5. Newenden	158	110	1
6. Rolvenden	1,507	1,498	1
7. Old Ebony	59	229	1
8. Stone-next-Tenterden	410	877	1
9. Tenterden	3,177	2,630	1
10. Wiltersham	919	1,450	1
11. Woodchurch	1,187	1,639	1
TOTALS	10,478	12,511	11

Declared to take place from and after 2d November 1835.

TONBRIDGE UNION:			
1. Ashurst	206	266	1
2. Bidborough	237	293	1
3. Brenchley	2,602	2,920	1
4. Capel	399	600	1
5. Hadlow	1,853	1,924	1
6. Horsemonden	1,197	1,772	1
7. Pembury	1,070	1,242	1
8. Speldhurst	2,640	2,399	1
9. Tonbridge	10,380	7,079	2
10. Tudely	575	128	1
TOTALS	21,159	18,623	11

Declared to take effect from and after 5th November 1835.

ADDITIONS which have been made to the Unions in the First Annual Report.

EAST ASHFORD UNION: From 1st Annual Report, page 397.		Average for the Years 1832,-33,-34.	
22. Parishes	9,541	11,582	22
*23. Orleston	392	304	1
*24. Ruckinge	379	500	1
*25. Warehorne	439	505	1
TOTALS	10,751	12,891	25

* Addition to take place from and after 25th April 1836. The averages for the three Parishes in addition are estimated on the years 1833, 1834 and 1835.

EASTRY UNION: From 1st Annual Report, page 396,			
26. Parishes	13,518	16,272	27
27. Deal	7,268	3,309	2
*28. St. Clement's (Sandwich)	912	545	1
*29. St. Mary's (Sandwich)	952	346	1
*30. St. Peter's (Sandwich)	1,220	705	1
TOTALS	23,870	21,177	32

* Addition to take place from and after 6th April 1836. The averages for the three Parishes in addition are estimated on the years 1833, 1834 and 1835.

ELHAM UNION: From 1st Annual Report, page 397,			
18. Parishes	8,212	9,309	18
*19. Folkestone (Town)	3,638	1,749	2
*20. St. Leonard (Hythe)	2,287	1,069	1
TOTALS	14,137	12,127	21

* Addition to take place from and after 23rd April 1836. The averages for the two Parishes in addition are estimated on the years 1833-34-35.

ISLE OF THANET: From 1st Annual Report, page 396,			
9. Parishes	7,474	7,688	13
10. *Margate	10,339	5,315	3
11. *Ramsgate	7,985	1,639	2
TOTALS	25,798	14,642	18

* Addition to take place from and after 6th April 1836. The averages for the two Parishes in addition are estimated on the years 1833-34-35.

RIVER UNION: From 1st Annual Report, page 396,			
22. Parishes	10,754	7,416	22
*23. St. Mary the Virgin (Dover)	9,753	5,050	2
TOTALS	20,507	12,466	24

* Addition to take place from and after 24th August 1836. The average for St. Mary the Virgin (Dover) is estimated on the years 1833-34-35.

WEST ASHFORD UNION: From 1st Annual Report, page 397,			
10. Parishes	7,634	10,806	10
*11. Ashford	2,809	1,219	2
*12. Little Chart	315	324	1
TOTALS	10,758	12,349	13

* Addition to take place from and after 25th April 1836. The averages for the two Parishes in addition are estimated on the years 1833-34-35.

COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

PARISHES UNITED. (Lancaster.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1834,-35,-36.	Number of elected Guardians.
ULVERSTONE UNION:		£.	
1. Ulverstone	4,876	1,750	4
2. Aldingham	884	311	2
3. Blawith	171	89	1
4. Cartmel Fell	347	172	1
5. East Broughton	416	269	1
6. Church Coniston	587	198	1
7. Claife	463	170	1
8. Colton	1,786	817	2
9. Dalton	759	1,146	2
10. Dunnerdale-with-Seathwaite	338	138	1
11. Egton-with-Newland	987	445	1
12. Hawkshead and Monk Coniston-with-Skelwith	1,194	502	2
13. Kirkby Ireleth	1,711	321	1
14. Lower Allithwaite	838	491	1
15. Lower Holker	1,021	312	1
Ulverstone Union—*continued.*		£.	
16. Lowick	371	189	1
17. Mansriggs	69	84	1
18. Osmotherly	293	221	1
19. Pennington	355	127	1
20. Satterthwaite	403	138	1
21. Suberthwaite	163	73	1
22. Torver	224	123	1
23. Staveley	326	294	1
24. Upper Allithwaite	759	228	1
25. Upper Holker	1,095	510	1
26. Urswick	752	508	1
27. West Broughton	1,375	463	2
Totals	22,563	10,089	36

Declared to take place from and after 26th August 1836.

COUNTY OF LEICESTER.

		Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	
ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH UNION:			
County of Leicester:			
1. Ashby-de-la-Zouch	4,400	1,350	3
2. Blackfordby	327	104	1
3. Staunton Harrold	342	161	1
4. Packington	476	124	1
5. Seals Over and Nether	1,222	573	2
6. Swepstone	627	379	1
7. Whitwick	1,552	658	2
8. Swannington	549	193	1
9. Appleby	610	176	1
10. Heather	449	174	1
11. Hugglescote & Donington	786	355	1
12. Normanton	216	129	1
13. Snareston	353	196	1
County of Derby:			
14. Appleby	540	350	1
15. Calke	58	47	1
16. Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe	757	129	1
17. Hartshorn	1,204	356	2
18. Measham	1,535	553	2
19. Packington	254	40	1
20. Smisby	324	132	1
21. Ticknall	1,278	446	2
22. Willesley	63	41	1
Counties of Derby and Leicester:			
23. Ravenstone	380	135	1
Totals	18,402	6,801	30

Declared to take place from and after 28th June 1836.

		£.	
BILLESDON UNION:			
1. Billesdon	769	520	2
2. Goadby	98	83	1
3. Rolleston	41	30	1
4. Burton Overy	418	456	1
5. Carlton Curlieu	51	75	1
6. Ilston-on-the-Hill	131	148	1
7. Evington	260	82	1
8. Gaulby	97	40	1
9. Frisby	21	20	1
10. Glenn Magna	743	622	2
11. Skelton Magna	27	35	1
12. Houghton	395	198	1
13. King's Norton	65	55	1
14. Stretton Parva	96	109	1
15. Ouston	197	128	1
16. Scraptoft	126	127	1
17. Bushby	86	24	1
18. Stoughton	139	177	1
19. Wistow	19	51	1
20. Newton Harcourt	279	190	1
21. Allexton	68	35	1
22. Marefield	24	11	1
23. Humberstone	470	256	1
24. Hungarton	260	180	1
25. Loddington	145	96	1
26. Lowesby	111	79	1
Billesdon Union—*contd.*		Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	
27. Cold Newton	120	98	1
28. East Norton	137	106	1
29. Tilton	158	289	1
30. Halstead	162	136	1
31. Whatborough	19	9	1
32. Tugby	250	184	1
33. Skeffington	180	135	1
34. Withcot	32	36	1
Totals	6,194	4,820	36

Declared to take place from and after 6th April 1835.

BLABY UNION:			
1. Blaby	1,101	561	2
2. Countesthorpe	839	754	2
3. Cosby	1,009	636	2
4. Foston	32	122	1
5. Kilby	434	351	1
6. Knighton	402	371	1
7. Oadby	1,023	763	2
8. Whetstone	903	449	2
9. Wigston Magna	2,174	1,877	3
10. Aylestone	758	362	2
11. Lubbisthorpe	70	105	1
12. Croft	284	180	1
13. Enderby	1,141	582	2
14. Glenfield	653	243	1
15. Braunstone	198	209	1
16. Kirby Muxloe	275	124	1
17. Narborough	792	771	2
18. Huncote	355	165	1
19. Potters Marston	11	9	1
20. Thurlaston	636	310	1
21. Glenn Parva	included in Aylestone.	155	1
22. Leicester Forest	71	46	1
Totals	13,061	9,145	32

Declared to take place from and after 6th February 1836.

HINCKLEY UNION:			
County of Leicester:			
1. Hinckley	6,491	3,162	5
2. Aston Flamville	85	130	1
3. Burbage	1,618	878	3
4. Barwell	1,245	797	3
5. Elmsthorpe	34	5	1
6. Earl Shilton	2,017		4
7. Sapcote	871	308	2
8. Sharnford	545	221	2
9. Stoney Stanton	549	305	2
County of Warwick:			
10. Burton Hastings	240	246	1
11. Stretton Baskerville	85		1
Totals	13,780	6,052	25

Declared to take place from and after 9th February 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (LEICESTER.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
LEICESTER UNION:		£.	
1. All Saints - -	3,284	1,283	4
2. St. Leonard's - -	444	220	2
3. St. Margaret - -	23,954	5,703	14
4. St. Martin - -	3,034	2,037	4
5. St. Mary - - -	6,582	2,403	6
6. The Newarke - -	194	110	1
7. St. Nicholas - -	1,494	454	3
8. The Castle View -	149	64	1
TOTALS - - -	39,135	12,274	35
Declared to take place from and after 20th June 1836.			
LUTTERWORTH UNION:		Average for the Years 1832,-33,-34.	
1. Lutterworth - -	2,262	981	2
2. Arnesby - - -	442	220	1
3. Ashby Parva - -	169	81	1
4. Bitteswell - -	439	268	1
5. Broughton Astley -	726	256	1
6. Bruntingthorpe -	382	176	1
7. Catthorpe - -	200	135	1
8. Bittesby - -	11	11	1
9. Great Claybrook -	481	223	1
10. Little Claybrook -	83	35	1
11. Ullesthorpe - -	599	191	1
12. Cottesbach - -	108	89	1
13. Frowlesworth - -	278	167	1
14. Gilmorton - -	830	335	1
15. Kilworth, North -	390	338	1
16. Kilworth, South -	437	358	1
17. Kimcote and Walton	490	340	1
18. Knaptoft, part of -	53	64	1
19. Shearsby - - -	354	212	1
20. Walton in Knaptoft	234	71	1
21. Leire - - -	455	241	1
22. Misterton - - -	587	545	1
23. Peatling Magna -	267	255	1
24. Peatling Parva -	174	82	1
25. Shawell - - -	216	106	1
26. Swinford - - -	438	291	1
27. Willoughby Waterless	327	186	1
28. Monks Kirby - -	530	405	1
29. Copston Magna -	108	70	1
30. Stretton-under-Foss -	304	223	1
31. Wibtoft (in Claybrook parish) - - -	104	81	1
32. Willey - - -	96	54	1
33. Dunton Bassett -	514	219	1
34. Ashby Magna - -	330	206	1
35. Wigston Parva -	69	33	1
TOTALS - - -	13,487	7,548	36
Declared to take place from and after 10th December 1835.			
MARKET BOSWORTH UNION:		Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	
1. Market Bosworth -	1,049	765	2
2. Barleston - - -	582	368	1
3. Barton-in-the-Beans	163	106	1
4. Carlton - - -	201	125	1
5. Shenton - - -	200	122	1
6. Dadlington - -	169	83	1
7. Cadeby - - -	175	122	1
8. Osbaston - - -	186	119	1
9. Congerston - -	170	104	1
10. Desford - - -	971	525	2
11. Ibstock - - -	1,044	814	2
12. Kirkby Mallory -	244	110	1
13. Markfield - -	1,088	369	2
14. Nailston - - -	421	242	1
15. Newbold Verdon -	590	437	1
16. Norton - - -	361	196	1
17. Bilston - - -	136	83	1
18. Orton-on-the-Hill -	350	345	1
19. Peckleton - -	294	293	1
20. Shackerston - -	267	206	1
21. Odston - - -	163	120	1
22. Upton - - - -	148	168	1
23. Thornton - - -	455	159	1

PARISHES UNITED. (LEICESTER.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
MARKET BOSWORTH UNION—*continued.*		£.	
24. Bagworth - -	328	306	1
25. Stanton-under-Bardon	295	133	1
26. Twycross - - -	319	170	1
27. Ratby - - - -	996	511	2
28. Gopsall (Ex. Parochial) -	- -	- - -	1
TOTALS - - -	11,365	7,101	33
Declared to take place from and after 11th February 1836.			
MARKET-HARBOROUGH:			
COUNTY OF LEICESTER:			
1. Market-Harborough	2,272	990	2
2. Bowden Magna -	1,074	1,033	1
3. Church Langton, including			
Langton, East -	281	454	1
Langton, West -	72	108	1
Thorp Langton -	177	296	1
Tur Langton -	338	457	1
4. Cranoe - - -	100	91	1
5. Fleckney - - -	514	377	1
6. Foxton - - -	346	522	1
7. Glooston - - -	177	147	1
8. Gumley - - -	272	281	1
9. Husband Bosworth -	865	569	1
10. Kibworth Beauchamp	604	499	1
11. Kibworth Harcourt -	421	560	1
12. Smeeton Westerby -	475	408	1
13. Laughton - - -	154	103	1
14. Lubbenham - -	542	874	1
15. Mowsley - - -	283	306	1
16. Saddingtan - -	268	313	1
17. Shangton - - -	39	73	1
18. Stonton Wyville -	106	59	1
19. Theddingworth -	257	210	1
20. Welham - - -	73	124	1
COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON:			
21. Ashley - - -	304	384	1
22. Brampton - -	100	36	1
23. Dingley - - -	160	172	1
24. Stoke Albany - -	339	387	1
25. Sutton Bassett - -	139	211	1
26. Weston by Welland -	208	316	1
27. Wilbarston - -	681	496	1
28. Arthingworth - -	225	315	1
29. Bowden, Little -	344	421	1
30. Braybrooke - -	366	544	1
31. Clipston - - -	807	922	1
32. Farndon, East - -	250	282	1
33. Hotthorpe - -	26	71	1
34. Kelmarsh - - -	159	216	1
35. Marston Trussel -	220	262	1
36. Oxenden Magna -	239	408	1
37. Sibbertoft - -	402	267	1
38. Sulby - - -	78	113	1
TOTALS - - -	14,757	14,677	42
Declared to take place from and after 3d December 1835.			
MELTON MOWBRAY UNION:			
COUNTY OF LEICESTER:			
1. Melton Mowbray -	3,356	1,392	3
2. Freeby - - -	120	47	1
3. Welby - - -	44	46	1
4. Ab-Kettleby - -	200	203	1
5. Holwell - - -	131	37	1
6. Branston - - -	298	120	1
7. Broughton Nether -	415	184	1
8. Buckminster - -	474	231	1
9. Sewstern - - -	368	201	1
10. Burton Lazars - -	258	210	1
11. Clawson Long - -	776	675	1
12. Coston - - -	170	102	1
13. Dalby Parva - -	194	81	1
14. Eastwell - - -	125	70	1
15. Eaton - - -	350	265	1
16. Edmonthorpe - -	211	110	1
17. Garthorpe - -	117	74	1
18. Goadby Marwood -	161	120	1

PARISHES UNITED. (LEICESTER.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
MELTON MOWBRAY UNION—*cont^d.*			
19. Harby	488	217	1
20. Hose	385	100	1
21. Kirkby Bellairs	227	156	1
22. Saltby	263	278	1
23. Saxby	206	30	1
24. Scalford	467	306	1
25. Somerby	377	200	1
26. Sproxton	378	224	1
27. Stapleford	185	61	1
28. Stathern	481	276	1
29. Stonesby	287	122	1
30. Tysonby	81	62	1
31. Thorpe Arnold	117	162	1
32. Waltham-on-the-Woulds	653	418	1
33. Wyfordby	98	38	1
34. Wymondham	746	303	1
35. Burrough	173	79	1
36. Pickwell	150	105	1
37. Asfordby	467	310	1
38. Ashby Folville	161	108	1
39. Barsby	230	115	1
40. Brookesby	10	35	1
41. Dalby Magna	411	142	1
42. Dalby-on-the-Woulds	393	154	1
43. Frisby-on-the-Wreak	442	230	1
44. Gaddesby	276	115	1
45. Grimston	185	115	1
46. Hoby	357	180	1
47. Ragdale	108	52	1
48. Rotherby	152	70	1
49. Saxelby	105	16	1
50. Twyford	349	188	1
51. Thorpe Satchville	163	87	1
52. Wartnaby	86	55	1
53. Wycomb and Chadwell	103	77	1
COUNTY OF NOTTINGHAM:			
54. Over Broughton	344	79	1
TOTALS	17,872	9,433	56

Declared to take place from and after 26th March 1836.

COUNTY OF LINCOLN.

BOURN UNION:			
1. Aslackby	455	329	1
2. Bourn	2,589	1,843	5
3. Baston	709	238	1
4. Bulby cum Howthorpe	176	64	1
5. Bytham Castle	597	266	1
6. Bytham, Little	237	78	1
7. Birthorpe	54	30	1
8. Billingborough	831	409	1
9. Careby	75	45	1
10. Carlby	206	102	1
11. Corby	654	243	1
12. Creeton	66	17	1
13. Counthorpe	65	83	1
14. Deeping St. James	1,587	544	3
15. Deeping, Market	1,091	399	2
16. Dowsby	230	142	1
17. Dunsby	172	148	1
18. Edenham	777	360	1
19. Folkingham	744	276	1
20. Haconby	381	167	1
21. Holywell	77	17	1
22. Horbling	559	297	1
23. Irnham	197	85	1
24. Kirkby Underwood	162	50	1
25. Laughton	75	25	1
26. Langtoff	606	340	1
27. Manthorpe	100	47	1
28. Morton	842	256	1
29. Pointon	409	215	1
30. Rippingale	658	327	1
31. Swayfield	260	185	1
32. Swinestead	402	154	1
33. Semperingham	27	53	1
34. Thurlby	632	417	1
35. Toft-cum-Lound	194	110	1
36. Witham-on-the-Hill	236	135	1
37. Aunby	42	10	1
TOTALS	17,174	8,506	44

Declared to take place from and after 25th November 1835.

GRANTHAM UNION:			
COUNTY OF LINCOLN:			
1. Ancaster	491	212	1
2. Barrowby	687	332	1
3. Basingthorpe	122	61	1
4. Belton	160	42	1
5. Bitchfield	135	33	1
6. Braceby	123	60	1
7. Boothby Pagnell	116	43	1
8. Burton Coggles	246	136	1
9. Carlton Scroope	199	94	1
10. Colsterworth	889	281	1
11. Denton	553	377	1
12. Easton	221	86	1
13. Grantham	4,590	2,037	7
14. Great Gonerby	916	544	1
GRANTHAM UNION—*cont^d.*			
15. Gunby	152	47	1
16. Haceby	66	25	1
17. Harrowby	54	52	1
18. Harlaxton	390	229	1
19. Haydon	362	188	1
20. Honington	177	44	1
21. Hough-on-the-Hill	565	323	1
22. Humby	76	30	1
23. Ingoldsby	345	165	1
24. Kiesby	65	27	1
25. Lavington-on-Lenton	177	134	1
26. Londonthorpe	187	106	1
27. Manthorpe cum Little Gonerby	1,720	483	3
28. Normanton	204	109	1
29. Osgodby	99	54	1
30. Pickworth	187	70	1
31. Ponton, Great	446	225	1
32. Ponton, Little	200	153	1
33. Ropsley	502	166	1
34. Sapperton	62	39	1
35. Skillington	389	149	1
36. Somerby	282	158	1
37. Stoke, South	93	41	1
38. Stoke, North	124	77	1
39. Stainby	186	101	1
40. Stroxton	124	100	1
41. Spittlegate	1,063	364	2
42. Witham, South	410	100	1
43. Witham, North	232	211	1
44. Welby	494	156	1
45. Woolsthorpe	650	180	1
46. Wyville-cum-Hungerton	128	95	1
COUNTY OF LEICESTER:			
47. Bottersford	1,320	391	2
48. Croxton Kerrial	585	419	1
49. Harston	183	99	1
50. Knipton	322	163	1
51. Muston	309	147	1
52. Redmile	461	103	1
TOTALS	22,839	10,061	62

Declared to take place from and after 14th January 1836.

HOLBEACH UNION:			
1. Fleet	794	893	1
2. Gedney	1,491	1,116	3
3. Gedney Hill Chapelry	371	342	1
4. Holbeach	3,890	2,262	6
5. Lutton	706	509	1
6. Sutton, St. Mary	3,510	1,582	5
7. Sutton, St. Edmunds	626	691	1
8. Sutton, St. James	391	465	1
9. Tydd, St. Mary	960	488	2
10. Whaplode Drove	580	355	1
11. Whaplode	1,418	1,661	3
TOTALS	14,737	10,364	25

Declared to take place from and after 7th December 1835.

PARISHES UNITED. (LINCOLN.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
SPALDING UNION:		£.	
1. Spalding	6,497	4,413	8
2. Pinchbeck	2,391	1,644	4
3. Surfleet	866	763	2
4. Cowbit	556	324	1
5. Weston	567	448	1
6. Gosberton	1,994	1,556	4
7. Quadring	858	674	2
8. Moulton	1,850	1,145	3
TOTALS	15,579	10,967	25

Declared to take place from and after 30th November 1835.

STAMFORD UNION:			
COUNTY OF LINCOLN:			
1. All Saints	1,769	590	1
2. St. George	1,410	522	3
3. St. John Baptist	1,109	353	2
4. St. Mary	365	154	2
5. St. Michael	1,184	600	2
6. Barholm	155	61	1
7. Braceborough	219	107	1
8. Deeping, West	301	179	1
9. Greatford	227	98	1
10. Tallington	220	250	1
11. Uffington	481	300	1
12. Wiltsthorpe	69	51	1
13. Stowe	17	28	1
COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON:			
14. Bainton	171	98	1
15. Barnack	535	145	1
STAMFORD UNION—*cont^d.*			
16. Colly Weston	394	123	1
17. Duddington	364	144	1
18. Easton	769	363	1
19. Pilsgate	107	83	1
20. St. Martin	1,225	402	2
21. Southorpe	137	51	1
22. Thornhaugh	270	126	1
23. Ufford	183	57	1
24. Wansford	180	84	1
25. Wittering	205	157	1
26. Wothorpe	49	8	1
27. Ashton	126	71	1
COUNTY OF RUTLAND:			
28. Casterton Magna	353	137	1
29. Casterton Parva	135	114	1
30. Clipsham	221	113	1
31. Essendine	160	72	1
32. Pickworth	140	79	1
33. Tinwell	262	135	1
34. Tixover	100	47	1
35. Ketton	810	289	1
36. Ryhall	569	160	1
COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON:			
37. Stibbington	420	248	1
TOTALS	15,411	6,599	43

Declared to take place from and after 17th November 1835.

COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX.

BRENTFORD UNION:			
1. Ealing	7,783	3,126	5
2. Chiswick	4,994	1,801	3
3. Acton	2,453	1,032	2
4. Brentford, New	2,085	1,159	2
5. Hanwell	1,213	448	1
6. Twickenham	4,571	1,957	3
7. Isleworth	5,590	2,732	4
8. Heston	3,407	1,088	2
9. Perivale	32	102	1
10. Greenford	477	334	1
TOTALS	32,605	13,779	24

Declared to take place from and after the 30th June 1836.

HOLBORN UNION:			
1. St. Andrew, Holborn above Bars united with St. George the Martyr	27,334	13,082	14
2. The Liberty of Saffron-hill, Hatton Garden, Ely Rents	9,529	3,699	6
And Ely Place	216		
TOTALS	37,079	16,781	20

Declared to take place from and after 27th April 1836.

ST. GEORGE IN THE EAST, Board of Guardians:		Average for the Years 1833 to 1835.	
1. St. George in the East, Middlesex	38,505	17,706	18

Declared to take place from and after the 25th March 1836.

ST. LEONARD'S SHOREDITCH, Board of Guardians:			
1. Parish of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, including Hoxton Liberty, Church-end Liberty, Holywell-street Liberty, Moor-fields Liberty	68,564	22,888	21

Declared to take place from and after the 25th March 1836.

ST. MARTIN IN THE FIELDS, Board of Guardians:			
Westminster City & Liberty:			
1. St. Martin in the Fields	23,732		24

Declared to take place from and after the 29th April 1835.

ST. MATTHEW, BETHNAL GREEN, Board of Guardians:			
1. St. Mathew, Bethnal Green, comprising Church Division, Green Division, Hackney Road Division, Town Division	62,018	14,218	20

Declared to take place from and after 25th March 1836.

ST. PANCRAS PARISH:			
1. St. Pancras	103,548	41,736	20

Placed under a Board of Guardians, 14th April 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (MIDDLESEX.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
STAINES UNION:		£.	
1. Staines	2,486	1,352	4
2. Stanwell	1,386	810	2
3. Bedfont East, with Hatton	986	396	2
4. Feltham	924	446	2
5. Hanworth	671	223	1
6. Ashford	458	354	1
7. Sunbury	1,863	1,206	2
8. Shepperton	847	568	1
9. Littleton	134	76	1
10. Salcham	588	187	1
11. Harmondsworth	1,276	710	2
12. Cranford	377	139	1
13. Harlington	648	436	1
TOTALS	12,644	6,903	21
Declared to take place from and after 28th June 1836.			
STRAND UNION:			
1. St. Mary-le-Strand, with the Duchy of Lancaster	2,052 / 410	1,553	3
2. Precinct of the Savoy	431	277	1

PARISHES UNITED. (MIDDLESEX)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
STRAND UNION—*continued.*		£.	
3. St. Paul Covent Garden	5,203	3,913	5
4. St. Clement Danes	15,442	6,441	10
5. Liberty of the Rolls	2,682	2,122	2
TOTALS	26,220	14,306	21
Declared to take place from and after the 25th March 1836.			
UXBRIDGE UNION:			
1. Uxbridge	3,842	1,565	5
2. Hillingdon	3,043	2,271	3
3. Harefield	1,285	556	2
4. Rinslip	1,197	1,289	2
5. Ickenham	297	419	1
6. Cowley	315	142	1
7. West Drayton	662	292	1
8. Hayes	1,575	914	2
9. Northolt	447	432	1
10. Norwood	(In Hayes parish.)	791	2
TOTALS	12,663	8,671	20
Declared to take effect from and after the 29th June 1836.			

COUNTY OF MONMOUTH.

ABERGAVENNY UNION:			
1. Abergavenny with the hamlets of Hardwicke and Lloyndir	3,940	973	3
2. Ishlancoed / Mamhole / Ushlawcoed	10,637	1,240	4
3. Aberystwith	5,992	1,091	3
4. Oldcastle	62	68	1
5. Cwmyoye, Upper	194	122	1
6. Cwmyoye, Lower	250	135	1
7. Bwlch Trewyn (hamlet of)	87	54	1
8. Tewddog (hamlet of)	127	16	1
9. Llanvihangel Crucorney with the hamlet of Penbiddle	365	232	1
10. Llangattock Lingoed	191	176	1
11. Llanthewy Skirrit	100	44	1
12. Llanvetherine	214	163	1
13. Llanvapley	99	61	1
14. Llanthewy Rytherch	359	174	1
15. Llantilio Patholey, Ultra / Llantilio Patholey, Citra	749	365	1
16. Llanwenarth, Ultra	1,956	253	1
17. Llanwenarth, Citra	247	187	1
18. Llanfoist	891	163	1
19. Llaneilan	372	190	1
20. Llanarth	324	176	1
21. Llanover, Lower and Higher	1,776	287	2
22. Llansaintfread	24	13	1
23. Llanvihangel-nigh-Usk	117	42	1
24. Llangattock-nigh-Usk	164	117	1
25. Llanvair Kilgiden	261	86	1
26. Clytha (hamlet of)	521	223	1
27. Bettws Newydd	108	42	1
28. Bryngwn	300	124	1
TOTALS	30,427	6,817	36
Declared to take place from and after the 31st May 1836.			
CHEPSTOW UNION:			
1. Chepstow, with the hamlet of Hardwick	3,524	746	3
2. Little Tintern	313	91	1
3. Trelleck Grange	170	132	1
4. Llanvihangel Tor-y-Mynidd	204	50	1
5. Wolves Newton	248	57	1
6. St. Brides Netherwent	200	20	1

CHEPSTOW UNION—*continued.*			
7. Undy	291	117	1
8. Penterry	55	28	1
9. St. Arvans	283	128	1
10. Newchurch, West	173	33	1
11. Newchurch, East	550	101	1
12. Ilton	141	94	1
13. Mounton	58	26	1
14. Shire Newton	791	199	1
15. Llanvair Discoed	182	38	1
16. Caerwent, with hamlet of Crick	444	188	1
17. Caldicot	583	270	1
18. Port Skewett	190	149	1
19. Llanvihangel Rogiatt	40	22	1
20. Rogiatt	40	34	1
21. Mattiern	412	149	1
22. Dinham, hamlet of	24	17	1
23. St. Pierre and Runstone	89	51	1
24. Llansoy	148	70	1
25. Howick, hamlet of	47	18	1
26. Kilwrwg	129	22	1
27. Ifton	42	13	1
28. Llangwm Ucha	267	105	1
29. Llangwm Icha	25	26	1
30. Chapel Hill	590	178	1
31. Didinham	1,150	423	2
32. Llancant, hamlet of	30	8	1
TOTALS	11,433	3,603	35
Declared to take place from and after 16th May 1836.			
MONMOUTH UNION:			
1. Ganarew	148	31	1
2. Welsh Newton	224	29	1
3. Llanrothal	128	69	1
4. Whitchurch	885	447	1
5. St. Maugham's	172	93	1
6. Dixton, with the hamlets of Dixton Hadnock and Dixton Newton	672	237	1
7. Wonaston	149	56	1
8. Llangattock Vibon abel	449	301	1
9. Llanvihangel Ystern Lewern	163	66	1
10. Skenfrith	609	316	1
11 Mitchel Troy	375	94	1
12. Llantilio Cressenny	589	632	1
13. Tregare	326	155	1
14. Penrose	398	184	1

PARISHES UNITED. (MONMOUTH.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
MONMOUTH UNION—*continued.*		£.	
15. Dingeston	198	100	1
16. Rockfield	279	159	1
17. Ragland	681	284	1
18. Llandenny	404	145	1
19. Cwmcarvan	301	97	1
20. Llanishen	296	70	1
21. Pen-y-Clawdd	46	23	1
22. Penalth	549	93	1
23. Trelleck	800	186	1
24. Monmouth, with the Borough	4,916	1,402	4
25. Llandago	646	170	1
26. Llangovern	136	56	1
27. Welsh Bicknor	91	33	1
28. Trelleck, township of	140	49	1
29. Newland	4,046	1,320	4
30. English Bicknor	598	213	1
31. Staunton	204	78	1
TOTALS	19,618	7,188	37

Declared to take place from and after 11th July 1836.

NEWPORT UNION:			
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH:			
1. Llandevenny, hamlet of	37	16	1
2. Llanvaches	327	120	1
3. Newport, township	included in St. Woollos.	963	2
4. St. Woollos	7,062	484	2
5. Llangattock, juxta Caerleon	291	84	1
6. Caerleon, town of	1,071	201	1
7. Mynyddyslwyn	5,035	972	2
8. Rogerstone, hamlet of	870	341	1
9. Duffryn, hamlet of	213	188	1
10. Graig, hamlet of	581	173	1
11. Malpas	221	90	1
12. Hentlis	207	87	1
13. Risca	742	171	1
14. Peterstone	110	106	1
15. Llanvihangle Llantarnam	626	185	1
16. Marshfield	458	286	1
17. Kemeys Inferior	133	57	1
18. Michaelstone Vedow	208	78	1
19. Willcrick	63	13	1
20. Bettws	95	81	1
21. Llanhennock	187	89	1
22. Witston	106	61	1
23. Llangston, with the hamlet of Llanbedo	194	40	1
24. Coedkernew	149	68	1
25. Llanmartin, with hamlet of Llanbedar	158	32	1

PARISHES UNITED. (MONMOUTH.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
NEWPORT UNION—*continued.*		£.	
26. Llanwern	22	42	1
27. Goldcliff	270	66	1
28. Magor	394	159	1
29. Bishton	155	35	1
30. Nash	213	131	1
31. St. Brides	200	122	1
32. Redwick, chapelry of	252	99	1
33. Tredunnock	158	78	1
34. Christchurch, with hamlet of Caerton-ultra-Pontern	862	222	1
35. Penhow	235	100	1
36. Machin, Upper	474	178	1
37. Machin, Lower	699	268	1
38. Bedwas	697	321	1
COUNTY OF GLAMORGAN.			
39 Rhydgwern, hamlet of	184	38	1
40. Llanvedow, hamlet of	293	202	1
TOTALS	24,252	7,052	43

Declared to take place from and after the 1st August 1836.

PONT-Y-POOL UNION:			
1. Llanhiddel	545	157	1
2. Trevethin, with Pont-y-Pool	10,280	2,019	4
3. Usk	1,160	295	1
4. Glascoed, hamlet of	197	83	1
5. Gwchellog, hamlet of	418	182	1
6. Llantrissent	304	141	1
7. Llangeview	180	57	1
8. Llanbadock	374	238	1
9. Llandegveth	105	72	1
10. Mamhilad	277	136	1
11. Trostrey	202	116	1
12. Kemeys Commander	75	20	1
13. Panteague	1,584	291	2
14. Llanthewy Vach	163	52	1
15. Monkswood	193	101	1
16. Llanvihangel, Pont-y-Moy	149	161	1
17. Gwernesney	62	39	1
18. Llanllowel	78	21	1
19. Llangibby	515	345	1
20. Llanvrechva, Upper	286	169	1
21. Llanvrechva, Lower	881	177	1
22. Goytrey	521	162	1
TOTALS	18,549	5,034	26

Declared to take place from and after the 23d May 1836.

COUNTY OF NORFOLK.

AYLSHAM UNION:			
1. Aylsham	2,334	1,632	2
2. Alby	346	276	1
3. Banningham	360	496	1
4. Little Banningham	227	350	1
5. Belaugh	151	135	1
6. Blickling	365	406	1
7. Brampton	207	72	1
8. Burgh	247	200	1
9. Buxton	610	365	1
10. Calthorpe	206	163	1
11. Cawston	1,110	1,655	1
12. Colby	304	282	1
13. Coltishall	868	739	1
14. Corpusty	468	321	1
15. Erpingham	434	454	1
16. Hevingham	931	883	1
17. Heydon	350	266	1
18. Ingworth	191	121	1
19. Irmingland	16	90	1
20. Itteringham	343	402	1
21. Lammas with Little Hautbo	303	146	1

AYLSHAM UNION—*continued.*			
22. Mannington	13	89	1
23. Marsham	692	451	1
24. Oulton	386	734	1
25. Oxnead	72	53	1
26. Saxthorpe	362	755	1
27. Scotton	460	417	1
28. Skeyton	317	335	1
29. Stratton Strawiess	218	164	1
30. Swanton-Abbott	448	345	1
31. Thwaite	142	150	1
32. Tuttington	228	229	1
33. Wickmere	319	363	1
34. Wolterton	41	62	1
35. Foulsham	958	1,175	1
36. Guestwick	188	521	1
37. Hackford	698	421	1
38. Hindolvestone	797	1,021	1
39. Reepham with Kerdiston	663	1,014	1
40. Sall	298	568	1
41. Themelthorpe	89	136	1
42. Thurning	140	314	1

PARISHES UNITED. (Norfolk.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
Aylsham Union—*continued.*		£.	
43. Whitwell	483	437	1
44. Wood-Dalling	512	783	1
45. Wood-Norton	315	257	1
46. Great Hautbois	141	143	1
Totals	19,351	20,391	47

Declared to take place from and after 9th April 1836.

BLOFIELD UNION:			
1. Blofield	1,092	692	3
2. Bradestone	145	116	1
3. Brundall	63	31	1
4. Buckenham-Ferry	49	62	1
5. Burlingham-St. Andrew	225	156	1
6. Burlingham-St. Edmund	104	103	1
7. Burlingham-St. Peter	102	111	1
8. Cantley	265	89	1
9. Freethorpe	289	271	1
10. Hasingham	140	41	1
11. Limpenhoe	156	177	1
12. Lingwood	294	93	1
13. Plumstead, Great	305	197	1
14. Plumstead, Little	312	177	1
15. Postwick	237	225	1
16. Southwood	54	88	1
17. Strumpshaw	374	174	1
18. Thorpe (next Norwich)	940	585	3
19. Witton	144	76	1
20. Acle	820	293	3
21. Beighton	262	145	1
22. Halvergate	465	347	2
23. Hemblington	238	71	1
24. Moulton	209	193	1
25. Ranworth with Panxworth	400	100	1
26. Reedham	535	263	2
27. Tunstall	101	64	1
28. Upton with Fishley	510	152	2
29. Walsham-South, St. Mary	575	206	1
30. Walsham-South, St. Lawrence		260	1
31. Wickhampton	122	103	1
32. Woodbastwick	288	155	1
Totals	9,815	5,816	41

Declared to take place from and after 5th October 1835.

DEPWADE UNION:			
1. Ashwellthorpe	471	359	1
2. Aslacton	359	540	1
3. Bunwell	947	781	2
4. Carlton Rode	916	1,435	2
5. Forncett, St. Mary	288	336	1
6. Forncett, St. Peter	727	885	1
7. Fritton	243	312	1
8. Fundenhall	394	288	1
9. Hapton	200	145	1
10. Hardwick	224	203	1
11. Hempnall	1,225	1,166	2
12. Morning Thorpe	164	294	1
13 Moulton-St. Michael	447	437	1
14. Shelton	253	294	1
15. Stratton, Long, St. Mary	721	553	1
16. Stratton-St. Michael	203	122	1
17. Tacolneston	486	474	1
18. Tasburgh	479	384	1
19. Tharston	392	293	1
20. Tibenham	650	987	1
21. Wacton Magna	242	594	1
22. Burston	477	495	1
23. Dickleburgh with Langmere	815	1,028	1
24. Diss	2,934	2,426	5
25. Gissing	598	446	1
26. Scole, otherwise Osmondiston, with Thorpe Parva and Frenze	667	522	1
27. Shimpling	227	153	1
28. Thelveton	175	176	1
29. Tivetshall-St. Margaret's	376	312	1

PARISHES UNITED. (Norfolk.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
Depwade Union—*continued.*		£.	
30. Tivetshall-St. Mary	313	398	1
31. Alburgh	586	454	1
32. Billingford, or Pirleston	205	157	1
33. Brockdish	482	388	1
34. Denton	580	600	1
35. Earsham	759	640	1
36. Needham	341	312	1
37. Pulham, St. Mary Virgin	831	857	1
38. Pulham, St. Mary Magdalen	1,046	929	2
39. Reddenhall with Harleston	1,784	1,418	3
40. Rushall	283	369	1
41. Starston	449	497	1
42. Thorpe Abbott's	272	325	1
43. Wortwell	537	324	1
Totals	24,768	24,008	53

Declared to take place from and after the 14th April 1836.

DOWNHAM UNION: County of Norfolk:		Average for the Years 1834,–35,–36.	
1. Barton Bendish	459	482	1
2. Bexwell	53	19	1
3. Broughton	221	105	1
4. Crimplesham	320	147	1
5. Denver	850	456	1
6. West Dereham	496	303	1
7. Downham Market	2,198	1,066	2
8. Fineham	756	432	1
9. Fordham	133	180	1
10. Hilgay	1,176	805	1
11. Holme (next Runcton)	225	226	1
12. Marham	799	573	1
13. Roxham	41	51	1
14. South Runcton	133	92	1
15. Ryston	26	21	1
16. Shouldham	725	691	1
17. Shouldham Thorpe	300	139	1
18. Southery	739	392	1
19. Stoke-Ferry	706	665	1
20. Stow-Bardolph	760	703	1
21. Stradseth	183	140	1
22. Tottenhill	358	392	1
23. Wallington with Thorpland	47	90	1
24. Watlington	500	478	1
25. Wereham	575	490	1
26. Wimbotsham	476	290	1
27. Wormigay	323	251	1
28. Wretton	523	479	1
29. Wiggenhall-St. Germain's	552	342	1
30. Wiggenhall-Mary Magdalene	576	420	1
31. Wiggenhall-St Mary	206	213	1
32. Wiggenhall-St. Peter	114	75	1
33. Welney, part of	467	280	1
County of Cambridge: 34. Welney, part of		195	1
Totals	16,016	11,083	35

Declared to take place from and after 23d August 1836.

ERPINGHAM UNION:		1833,–34,–35.	
1. Aldborough	275	266	1
2. Antingham	248	269	1
3. Aylmerton	284	195	1
4. Barningham-Norwood	42	57	1
5. Barningham-Winter	114	164	1
6. Beckham, East	50	203	1
7. Beeston Regis	246	131	1
8. Bessingham	137	61	1
9. Cromer	1,232	575	2
10. Felbrigg	155	119	1
11. Gimingham	353	292	1
12. Gresham	362	230	1
13. Gunton	84	62	1
14. Hanworth	276	261	1
15. Knapton	327	263	1
16. Matlask	218	70	1

PARISHES UNITED. (NORFOLK.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
ERPINGHAM UNION—*continued.*		£.	
17. Metton	81	46	1
18. Mundsley	436	160	1
19. Northrepps	605	455	1
20. Overstrand	178	61	1
21. Plumstead	220	180	1
22. Roughton	439	336	1
23. Runton	473	384	1
24. Sherringham	899	546	1
25. Siderstands	160	86	1
26. Southrepps	733	747	1
27. Suffield	272	356	1
28. Sustead	162	153	1
29. Thorpe Market	254	105	1
30. Thurgarton	247	227	1
31. Trimingham	168	84	1
32. Trunch	430	519	1
33. North Walsham	2,615	2,151	3
34. Bodham	308	326	1
35. Briston	1,037	816	1
36. Cley (next the Sea)	827	681	1
37. Edgefield	774	1,300	1
38. Hempstead	286	493	1
39. Holt	1,622	1,040	2
40. Hunworth	285	265	1
41. Kelling	213	196	1
42. Letheringsett	278	365	1
43. Salthouse	262	90	1
44. Stody	161	162	1
45. Thornage	332	351	1
46. Weybourne	273	159	1
47. Beckham, West	156	160	1
48. Baconsthorpe	333	169	1
49. Glandford with Bayfield	102	145	1
TOTALS	20,024	16,532	53

Declared to take place from and after 11th April 1836.

ST. FAITH'S UNION:			
1. Attlebridge	117	90	1
2. Beeston-St. Andrew	49	66	1
3. Catton	592	818	1
4. Crostwick	143	69	1
5. Drayton	349	232	1
6. Felthorpe	502	249	1
7. Frettenham	269	298	1
8. Hainford	605	275	1
9. Hellesdon (part of, not included in Norwich)	61	95	1
10. Horsford	543	1,140	1
11. Horsham-St. Faith, and Newton-St. Faith	1,279	1,036	2
12. Horstead with Stainninghall	593	611	1
13. Rackheath	262	239	1
14. Salhouse	539	250	1
15. Spixworth	54	38	1
16. Sprowston	1,179	424	2
17. Taverham	191	283	1
18. Wroxham	368	186	1
19. Norwich, Trinity, or St. Mary-in-the-Marsh	611	617	2
20. Honingham	365	411	1
21. Ringland	350	248	1
22. Brandistone	96	243	1
23. Weston	406	789	1
24. Haveringland	181	258	1
25. Swannington	370	297	1
26. Morton-on-the-Hill	169	204	1
27. Great Witchingham	582	751	1
28. Little Witchingham, otherwise St. Faith	62	47	1
29. Alderford	40	58	1
30. Booton	199	203	1
TOTALS	11,126	10,525	33

Declared to take place from and after the 11th January 1836.

FREEBRIDGE LYNN UNION:			
1. Ashwicken	30	79	1
2. Babingley	38	57	1
3. Bawsey	39	10	1

PARISHES UNITED. (NORFOLK.)	Population in 1831	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
FREEBRIDGE LYNN UNION—*continued.*		£.	
4. West Bilney	236	239	1
5. Castle Acre	1,333	765	2
6. Castle Rising (Borough and Parish)	358	203	1
7. Congham	290	231	1
8. Flitcham with Appleton	323	233	1
9. Gayton	711	651	1
10. Gayton Thorpe	169	154	1
11. Gaywood	924	671	2
12. Grimstone	1,060	939	2
13. Harpley	370	173	1
14. Hillington	289	229	1
15. Leziate	159	316	1
16. Great Massingham	850	621	2
17. Little Massingham	165	212	1
18. Middleton	681	490	1
19. Mintlyn	31	45	1
20. West Newton	232	61	1
21. Pentney	480	509	1
22. Roydon	174	133	1
23. North Runcton	307	347	1
24. Sanderingham	81	31	1
25. Setchey (Hamlet)	95	92	1
26. East Walton	220	127	1
27. West Acre with Custhorpe	415	317	1
28. East Winch	466	343	1
29. West Winch	394	364	1
30. Wolverton	163	195	1
31. North Wootton	179	39	1
32. South Wootton	177	76	1
TOTALS	11,489	8,952	36

Declared to take place from and after 16th November 1836.

GUILTCROSS UNION:			
1. Banham	1,297	1,224	2
2. Blo' Norton	411	439	1
3. Garboldisham	718	436	1
4. Gasthorpe	112	18	1
5. East Harling	1,031	648	1
6. West Harling	107	82	
7. Kenninghall	1,251	1,589	2
8. North Lopham	807	573	1
9. South Lopham	729	648	1
10. Quidenham	84	93	1
11. Riddlesworth	76	46	1
12. Bridgham	291	157	1
13. Old Buckenham	1,201	1,062	2
14. New Buckenham	795	484	1
15. Eccles	122	143	1
16. Wilby	123	108	1
17. Bressingham	655	774	1
18. Fersfield	292	296	1
19. Roydon	633	510	1
20. Shelfanger	435	487	1
21. Winfarthing	703	1,016	1
TOTALS	11,873	10,833	24

Declared to take place from and after 6th November 1835.

HENSTEAD UNION:			
1. Arminghall	88	36	1
2. Bixley	84	113	1
3. Bramerton	202	239	1
4. Caister-St. Edmunds	193	197	1
5. Framingham-Earl	74	79	1
6. Framingham-Pigot	302	226	1
7. Holverstone	33	22	1
8. Kirdy-Bebon	245	334	1
9. Great or East Poringland with Little or West Poringland	543	280	1
10. Rockland	437	195	1
11. Saxlingham Nethergate	666	8 0	1
12. Saxlingham Thorpe	161	252	1
13. Shotesham-All Saints	558	430	1
14. Shotesham-St. Mary and St. Martin	367	328	1
15. Stoke-Holy Cross	350	486	1
16. Surlingham	399	283	1
17. Trowse with Newton	583	471	1

PARISHES UNITED. (NORFOLK.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
HENSTEAD UNION—*continued.*		£.	
18. Whitlingham	45	25	1
19. Bracon Ash	316	258	1
20. East Carlton	314	214	1
21. Colney	90	44	1
22. Cringleford	177	155	1
23. Dunston	102	124	1
24. Flordon	164	249	1
25. Hethel	184	242	1
26. Hethersett	1,080	1,057	2
27. Intwood	52	10	1
28. Keswick	120	253	1
29. Ketteringham	215	292	1
30. Markshall or Mattishall Heath	32	18	1
31. Great Melton	406	551	1
32. Little Melton	292	96	1
33. Mulbarton	523	291	1
34. Newton Flotman	382	442	1
35. Swainsthorpe	180	220	1
36. Swardeston	371	398	1
37. Wrenningham	409	501	1
TOTALS	10,739	10,231	38

Declared to take place from and after 19th December 1835.

KING'S LYNN UNION:		Average for the Years 1832,-33,-34.	
1. St. Margaret's	11,424	7,899	18
2. South Lynn, or All Saints	1,946	1,321	3
TOTALS	13,370	9,220	21

Declared to take place from and after 30th September 1835.

LODDON & CLAVERING UNION:		Average for the Years 1834,-35,-36.	
1. Alpington	197	178	1
2. Ashby	218	49	1
3. Bedingham	380	248	1
4. Broome	504	142	1
5. Carleton	96	83	1
6. Chedgrave	353	131	1
7. Claxton	192	88	1
8. Ditchingham	962	260	2
9. Hardley	211	147	1
10. Hedenham	356	241	1
11. Hillington	52	30	1
12. Kirkstead	261	76	1
13. Langley	361	255	1
14. Loddon	1,175	633	2
15. Mundham	314	103	1
16. Leething	438	166	1
17. Sisland	85	45	1
18. Thurton	193	109	1
19. Thwaite	107	62	1
20. Topcroft	463	255	1
21. Woodton	539	254	1
22. Aldeby	530	284	1
23. Brooke	736	306	1
24. Burgh Apton	509	174	1
25. Burgh, St. Peter	316	113	1
26. Ellingham	333	243	1
27. Geldestone	340	55	1
28. Gillingham, All Saints	369	219	1
29. Gillingham, St. Mary			1
30. Haddiscoe	383	189	1
31. Hales	314	142	1
32. Heckingham	183	48	1
33. Howe	119	58	1
34. Kirby-Cane	385	287	1
35. Norton-Subcourse	367	136	1
36. Raveningham	215	110	1
37. Stockton	110	63	1
38. Thorpe (next Haddiscoe)	79	50	1
39. Thurlton	416	109	1
40. Toft-Monks	333	284	1
41. Wheatacre-All Saints	186	69	1
42. Yelverton	Included in Alpington	-	1
TOTALS	13,680	6,494	44

Declared to take place from and after 7th May 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (NORFOLK.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
MITFORD & LAUNDITCH UNION:		£.	
1. Burgh, South	261	271	1
2. Cranworth	323	248	1
3. Gurvestone	333	342	1
4. Hardingham	560	688	1
5. Hockering	438	386	1
6. Letton	133	107	1
7. Mattishall	1,093	1,178	1
8. Mattishall Burgh	210	129	1
9. Reymerston	299	327	1
10. Shipdham	1,889	1,387	2
11. Thuxton	83	77	1
12. Tuddenham, East	587	611	1
13. Tuddenham, North	399	521	1
14. Westfield	127	107	1
15. Whinberg	219	173	1
16. Wood-Rising	127	151	1
17. Yaxham	501	619	1
18. Beeston with Bittering	702	848	1
19. Beetley	381	354	1
20. Bilney, East	166	141	1
21. Brisley	362	398	1
22. Colkerk	316	614	1
23. Dereham, East	3,946	2,469	4
24. Dunham, Great	511	604	1
25. Dunham, Little	290	198	1
26. Gateley	120	310	1
27. Gressenhall	924	765	1
28. Hoo	235	297	1
29. Horningstoft	293	345	1
30. Kempston	59	143	1
31. Lexham, East	206	88	1
32. Lexham, West	103	149	1
33. Litcham	771	766	1
34. Longham	333	250	1
35. Mileham	566	343	1
36. Oxwick with Pattesley	74	154	1
37. Rougham	340	167	1
38. Elmham, North	1,153	581	1
39. Fransham, Great	323	360	1
40. Fransham, Little	234	189	1
41. Scarning	603	902	1
42. Stanfield	234	235	1
43. Swanton-Morley	837	728	1
44. Tittleshall with Godwick	570	694	1
45. Weasanham, All Saints	313	245	1
46. Weasenham, St. Peter's	309	204	1
47. Wellingham	165	149	1
48. Windling	347	445	1
49. Whissonsett	628	398	1
50. Worthing	138	63	1
51. Bawdeswell	587	888	1
52. Billingford	313	227	1
53. Bintree	412	494	1
54. Bylaugh	92	256	1
55. Elsing	437	648	1
56. Foxley	274	242	1
57. Guist	363	588	1
58. Lyng	645	957	1
59. Sparham	355	344	1
60. Twyford	82	122	1
TOTALS	27,694	26,684	64

Declared to take place from and after 14th May 1836.

THETFORD UNION: COUNTY OF NORFOLK.			
1. St. Cuthbert	Borough of Thetford.	1,516	527	2
2. St. Mary		872	402	2
3. St. Peter		1,074	494	2
4. Brettenham		65	14	1
5. Kilverston		36	24	1
6. East Wretham		325	89	1
7. West Wretham			31	1
8. Rushford		138	111	1
9. Cranwick		88	46	1
10. Croxton		278	156	1
11. Feltwell St. Mary and St. Nicholas		1,231	1,033	2
12. Hockwold with Wilton		878	941	1
13. Lynford		90	44	1
14. Methwold		1,266	1,072	2

PARISHES UNITED. (NORFOLK.)	Population in 1831.	Expenditure on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
THETFORD UNION—*continued.*		£.	
15. Mundford	414	170	1
16. Northwold	1,094	571	2
17. Santon	18	44	1
18. Sturston	49	18	1
19. West Toft	182	47	1
20. Weeting, with Broomhill	357	332	1
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK:			
21. Barnham	384	107	1
22. Barningham	514	339	1
23. Coney Weston	255	205	1
24. Euston	202	145	1
25. Fakenham Magna	204	122	1
26. Honington	248	144	1
27. Hopton	581	370	1
28. Kneetishall	67	32	1
29. Sapiston	234	250	1
30. Market Weston	312	293	1
31. Santon Downham	66	81	1
32. Brandon	2,065	1,492	4
*33. Hepworth	542	- - -	1
*34. Thlenetham	553	- - -	1
TOTALS	16,198	9,850	43

Declared to take place from and after the 23d December 1835.

* Addition to take place from and after the 22d February 1836.

WALSINGHAM UNION:			
1. Barney	263	164	1
2. Binham	493	522	1
3. Cockthorpe	41	55	1
4. Egmere	46	100	1
5. Field Dalling	400	455	1
6. Hindringham	784	1,276	1
7. Holkham	792	445	1
8. Houghton, St. Giles-in-the Hole	215	274	1
9. Great Snoring	437	536	1
10. Stiffkey	460	313	1
11. Thursford	392	533	1
12. Great Walsingham	434	551	1
13. Little Walsingham	1,004	1,056	1
14. All Saints and Mary, Warham	451	346	1
15. Wells-next-the-Sea	3,624	1,450	3
16. Wighton	542	559	1
17. Bale or Baithley	275	453	1
18. Blackeney	929	556	1
19. Briningham	277	448	1
20. Gunthorpe	316	855	1
21. Langham	375	290	1
22. Morston	171	61	1
23. Saxlingham	153	310	1
24. Sharrington	252	265	1
25. Swanton Novers	377	91	1
26. Wiveton	218	182	1
27. East Barsham	219	212	1
28. North Barsham	84	128	1
29. West Barsham	101	140	1
30. Dunton	126	174	1
31. Fakenham & Alethorpe	2,085	2,124	2
32. Fulmodeston with Croxton	391	747	1
33. Helhoughton	318	378	1
34. Hempton	411	203	1
35. Kettlestone	221	485	1
36. Pensthorpe	30	22	1
37. Pudding Norton	17	32	1
38. East Rainham	115	276	1
39. South Rainham St. Martin	122	100	1
40. West Rainham	335	376	1
41. Great Ryburgh	598	913	1
42. Little Ryburgh	162	172	1
43. Sculthorpe	619	592	1
44. Shereford	110	116	1
45. Little Snoring	287	373	1
46. Stibbard	505	673	1
47. Tatterford	75	62	1
48. Tattersett	118	324	1
49. Toft Trees	78	333	1
*50. Testerton	18	- - -	1
TOTALS	20,866	21,497	53

Declared to take place from and after 12th April 1836.

* The average for Testerton is not yet declared.

WAYLAND UNION:			
1. Buckles	154	98	1
2. Carbrooke	789	970	2
3. Caston	541	314	1
4. Little Ellingham	240	202	1
5. Greston	208	95	1
6. Merton	126	109	1
7. Ovington	230	145	1
8. Rockland, St. Peter's	298	209	1
9. Scoulton	328	268	1
10. Stow-bedon	303	261	1
11. Thompson	478	339	1
12. Tottington	313	158	1
13. Watton	1,027	849	2
14. Attleburgh	1,939	2,002	3
15. Besthorpe	542	551	1
16. Great Ellingham	882	1,334	2
17. Hargham	77	34	1
18. Hockham	565	300	1
19. Illington	91	47	1
20. Larling	227	194	1
21. Rockland, All Saints	322	261	1
22. Rockland, St. Andrew	136	138	1
23. Roudham	73	35	1
24. Snetterton	247	183	1
25. Shropham	507	354	1
TOTALS	10,643	9,450	30

Declared to take place from and after 19th September 1835.

Additions which have been made to the Unions in the 1st Annual Report.

SWAFFHAM UNION: From 1st Annual Report, page 384.			
28 Parishes	12,321	12,197	41
*29. Threxton	29	87	1
*30. Buckenham Tofts	51	209	1
*31. Igburgh	197	43	1
*32. Colvestone	34	9	1
TOTALS	12,632	12,545	45

* Addition to take place from and after 28th September 1835.

COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON.

DAVENTRY UNION:			
1. Daventry	3,646	1,833	4
2. Ashby, St. Leger's	257	268	1
3. Badby	583	386	1
4. Braunston	1,380	1,428	2
DAVENTRY UNION—*continued.*			
5. Catesby	103	190	1
6. Charwelton	266	294	1
7. Dodford	279	276	1
8. Everdon	745	894	1

PARISHES UNITED. (NORTHAMPTON.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
DAVENTRY UNION—*continued.*		£.	
9. Farthingstone	293	302	1
10. Fawsley	22	10	1
11. Hellidon	426	474	1
12. Newnham	581	641	1
13. Norton	541	453	1
14. Preston Capes	378	508	1
15. Staverton	475	291	1
16. Stowe-Nine-Churches	404	328	1
17. Weedon Beck	1,439	1,175	2
18. Welton	600	549	1
19. Byfield	952	998	1
20. Woodford-cum-Membris	827	678	1
21. Canon's Ashby	31	27	1
22. Brockhall	58	86	1
23. Floore or Flore	955	798	1
24. Whilton	397	284	1
25. Buckby, Long	2,078	2,158	2
26. Haddon, West	909	841	1
27. Watford	353	396	1
28. Winwick	159	78	1
TOTALS	19,137	16,644	34

Declared to take place from and after 29th October 1835.

KETTERING UNION:			
1. Kettering	4,099	4,188	4
2. Barton Seagrave	203	211	1
3. Burton Lattimer	995	848	2
4. Cranford, St. John	564	201	1
5. Cranford, St. Andrew		171	1
6. Grafton Underwood	290	136	1
7. Warkston	301	327	1
8. Broughton	533	566	1
9. Cransley	308	278	1
10. Pytchley	558	823	1
11. Desborough	938	829	2
12. Glendon	44	52	1
13. Harrington	191	146	1
14. Loddington	218	224	1
15. Orton	109	155	1
16. Rothwell	1,875	2,062	2
17. Rushton, All Saint's and St. Peter	405	499	1
18. Thorpe Malsor	297	245	1
19. East Carlton	75	40	1
20. Corby	684	1,202	1
21. Cottingham	470	520	1
22. Geddington	795	545	1
23. Middleton	433	513	1
24. Newton	111	125	1
25. Great Oakley	204	269	1
26. Little Oakley	128	123	1
27. Stanion	313	266	1
28. Weekley	273	190	1
TOTALS	15,464	15,754	34

Declared to take place from and after 23d September 1835.

OUNDLE UNION:			
1. Oundle	2,308	1,378	3
2. Ashton	142	103	1
3. Armston	25	18	1
4. Apethorpe	297	104	1
5. Barnwell, St. Andrew	284	117	1
6. Barnwell, All Saints	126	91	1
7. Benefield	519	333	1
8. Blatherwick	227	89	1
9. Bulwick	482	271	1
10. Cotterstock	161	57	1
11. Deene	228	200	1
12. Deenethorpe	225	136	1
13. Fotheringhay	280	371	1
14. Glapthorne	353	370	1
15. Hemington	133	96	1
16. King's Cliffe	1,173	480	2
17. Lilford-cum-Wigsthorpe	127	120	1
18. Luddington-in-the-Brook	117	82	1
19. Lutton	171	76	1
20. Nassington	601	449	1
21. Pilton	131	92	1
22. Polebrooke	392	368	1
23. Southwick	154	116	1
24. Stoke Doyle	165	78	1
25. Tansor	255	134	1
26. Thorpe-Achurch	240	164	1
27. Wadenhoe	252	210	1
28. Warmington	617	544	1
29. Weldon, Great	338	280	1
30. Weldon, Little	440	453	1
31. Wood Newton	449	129	1
32. Yarwell	369	109	1
33. Elton	780	570	1
34. Gidding, Great	452	263	1
35. Gidding, Little	48	32	1
36. Thurning	130	68	1
37. Winwick	326	350	1
TOTALS	13,517	8,901	40

Declared to take place from and after the 1st December 1835.

PETERBOROUGH UNION:			
COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON:			
1. St. John the Baptist, Peterborough (Soke or Liberty of Peterborough.)	6,511	3,063	6
2. Ailesworth	289	81	1
3. Castor	669	430	1
4. Deeping Gate	155	133	1
5. Eye	1,122	389	1
6. Elton	118	162	1
7. Glinton	414	211	1
8. Gunthorpe	48	31	1
9. Helpstone	485	274	1
10. Marholm	174	47	1
11. Maxey	421	316	1
12. Newborough	340	48	1
13. Northborough	227	74	1
14. Paston	91	33	1
15. Peakirk	191	73	1
16. Sutton	118	91	1
17. Upton	122	67	1
18. Walton	160	73	1
19. Werrington	537	169	1
20. Alwalton	294	80	1
21. Caldecot	48	16	1
22. Denton	85	37	1
23. Folksworth	195	132	1
24. Fletton	189	126	1
25. Chesterton	105	55	1
26. Farcet	536	309	1
27. Glatton	348	152	1
28. Haddon	130	77	1
29. Holme	359	94	1
30. Morborne	94	62	1
31. Overton Longville	286	126	1
32. Overton Waterville	286	133	1
33. Standground	706	420	1
34. Stilton	793	303	1
35. Water Newton	108	63	1
36. Woodstone	243	71	1
37. Yaxley	1,140	327	1
38. Washingley	81	107	1
COUNTY OF LINCOLN:			
39. Crowland	2,716	1,265	2
TOTALS	20,984	9,720	45

Declared to take place from and after 3d December 1835.

THRAPSTON UNION:			
COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON:			
1. Thrapston	1,014	606	2
2. Addington, Great	232	313	1
3. Addington, Little	264	283	1
4. Aldwinckle-All Saint's	247	193	1
5. Aldwinckle-St. Peter's	171	89	1
6. Brigstock	1,167	1,061	2
7. Chelveston	332	245	1
8. Clapton	90	82	1

PARISHES UNITED. (NORTHAMPTON.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
THRAPSTON UNION—*continued.*		£.	
9. Denford	319	282	1
10. Hargrave	203	134	1
11. Islip	562	358	1
12. Luffwick or Lowick	394	243	1
13. Raunds	1,370	900	2
14. Ringstead	620	632	1
15. Slipton	155	108	1
16. Stanwick	503	396	1
17. Sudborough	346	304	1
18. Titchmarsh	843	710	2
19. Twywell	199	124	1
20. Woodford	639	392	1
COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON:			
21. Brington	150	137	1
22. Bythorn	313	194	1
23. Covington	140	125	1
24. Keyston	198	192	1
25. Molesworth	222	223	1
26. Old Weston	356	475	1
TOTALS	11,099	8,801	30

Declared to take place from and after 30th November 1835.

PARISHES UNITED. (NORTHAMPTON.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
ADDITIONS which have been made to the Unions in the First Annual Report.			
BRIXWORTH UNION:			
From First Annual Report, page 389,		£.	
30 Parishes	12,461	11,388	35
*31. Cold Ashby	385	370	1
*32. Naseby	707	577	1
*33. Thornby	198	167	1
TOTALS	13,751	12,502	38

* Addition to take place from and after 21st April 1836.

POTTERS-PURY UNION:			
From First Annual Report, page 388,			
11 Parishes	5,954	5,375	13
Stony Stratford.			
*12. St. Giles on West Side	1,053	557	2
*13. St. Mary Magdalen on East Side	566	367	1
*14. Calverton	425	428	1
*15. Woolverton	417	589	1
TOTALS	8,415	7,316	18

* Addition to take place from and after the 28th Sept. 1835.

COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

TYNEMOUTH UNION:		Average for the Years 1834,–35,–36.	
Parish of Tynemouth:			
1. Tynemouth	10,182	2,261	7
2. Chirton	4,973	957	4
3. Cullercoates	542	53	1
4. Whitley	632	163	1
5. Monkseaton	489	148	1
6. Murton	451	203	1
7. North Shields	6,744	2,588	5
8. Preston	765	290	1
Parish of St. Andrew:			
9. Cramlington	931	178	1
Parish of Earsdon:			
10. Earsdon	628	111	1
11. Backworth	412	111	1
12. Burradon	67	22	1
13. Holywell	478	65	1

TYNEMOUTH UNION—*continued.*		Average for the Years 1834,–35,–36.	
Parish of Earsdon—*continued.*			
14. Hartley	1,850	969	2
15. Seaton Delaval	271	218	1
16. Newsham and So. Blyth	1,769	755	2
17. Seghill	985	191	1
Parochial Chapelry of Horton:			
18. Bebside	100	65	1
19. East Hartford	12	5	1
20. West Hartford	55	35	1
21. Horton	175	80	1
22. Cowpen	2,081	499	2
23. Long Benton	6,613	1,733	5
24. Wallsend	5,510	1,440	4
TOTALS	47,715	13,140	47

Declared to take place from and after 5th September 1836.

COUNTY OF NOTTINGHAM.

BASFORD UNION:		Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	
COUNTY OF NOTTINGHAM:			
1. Basford	6,325	926	2
2. Arnold	4,054	1,307	2
3. Annesley	335	163	1
4. Felley		no poor	
5. Bulwell	2,611	505	1
6. Bilborough	330	161	1
7. Beeston	2,530	448	1
8. Calverton	1,196	338	1
9. Eastwood	1,395	435	1
10. Greasley	4,853	1,289	2
11. Hucknal Torkard	2,200	625	1
12. Lambley	824	302	1
13. Papplewick	359	205	1
14. Newstead	159	64	1
15. Selston	1,580	468	1
16. Strelley	426	126	1
17. Thrumpton	132	52	1
18. Woodborough	774	244	1

BASFORD UNION—*continued.*		Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	
19. Linby	352	191	1
20. Wilford	602	160	1
21. Clifton with Glapton	405	77	1
22. Gedling	458	177	1
23. Carlton	1,704	514	1
24. Stoke Bardolph	181	167	1
25. Colwick	145	71	1
26. Wollaton	537	266	1
27 Kirkby in Ashfield	2,032	545	1
28. Trowell	402	120	1
29. Cossall	341	70	1
30. Nuthall	509	304	1
31. Barton	379	74	1
32. Ruddington	1,428	243	1
33. Bradmore	369	85	1
34. Gotham	748	324	1
35. Bunny	371	65	1
36. Burton Joyce	534	145	1

PARISHES UNITED. (NOTTINGHAM.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of Elected Guardians.
BASFORD UNION—*continued.*			
37. West Bridgeford	388	124	1
38. Gamston		6	1
COUNTY OF DERBY:			
39. Ilkestone	4,446	1,149	2
40. Heanor	2,672	647	1
41. Shipley	632	270	1
42. Codnor-cum-Loscoe	1,439	217	1
43. Codnor Park	637	76	1
TOTALS	51,794	13,745	46

Declared to take place from and after 2d May 1836.

BINGHAM UNION:			
COUNTY OF NOTTINGHAM.			
1. Bingham	1,738	330	2
2. Flintham	545	164	1
3. Knighton	119	26	1
4. East Bridgeford	938	179	1
5. Car Colston	249	75	1
6. Hawksworth	212	77	1
7. Scarrington	188	101	1
8. Screveton	312	79	1
9. Thoroton	143	81	1
10. Whatton	388	180	1
11. Aslacton	289	79	1
12. Orston	438	160	1
13. Elton	91	47	1
14. Granby	342	94	1
15. Sibthorpe	144	76	1
16. Shelton	113	94	1
17. Flawborough	80	55	1
18. Ratcliffe-on-Trent	1,125	244	1
19. Tithby	144	29	1
20. Cropwell Bishop	473	99	1
21. Cropwell Butler	551	83	1
22. Barnston-cum-Langar	274	190	1
23. Colston Bassett	387	148	1
24. Cotgrave	842	230	1
25. Owthorpe	144	42	1
26. Kinoulton	389	107	1
27. Tollerton	149	63	1
28. Plumtree	605	88	1
29. Clipston		10	1
30. Stanton-on-the-Wold	125	31	1
31. Edwalton	210	35	1
32. Normanton	365	29	1
33. Hickling	529	267	1
34. Shelford	704	190	1
35. Saxondale		40	1
36. Keyworth	522	138	1
37. Holme Pierpoint	205	139	1
38. Widmerpool	180	96	1
COUNTY OF LEICESTER.			
39. Barkston	297	130	1
40. Plungar	224	107	1
TOTALS	14,773	4,432	41

Declared to take place from and after 27th April, 1836.

EAST RETFORD UNION:		Average for the Years 1834,-35,-36.	
1. East Retford	2,491	1,010	2
2. West Retford	593	255	1
3. Clareborough	2,106	322	1
4. Ordsall	809	244	1
5. Eaton	284	34	1
6. Gamston	306	132	1
7. Batworth	449	195	1
8. Elkesley	377	187	1
9. Bothamsel	326	157	1
10. West Drayton	108	38	1
11. East Drayton	256	76	1
12. West Markham	197	145	1
13. East Markham	805	225	1
14. Tuxford	1,113	313	1
15. Askham	329	117	1
16. Darlton	162	92	1
17. Danham	389	119	1
18. Ragnal	168	68	1
19. Fledborough	86	72	1
20. Laneham	347	145	1

PARISHES UNITED. (NOTTINGHAM.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1834,-35,-36.	Number of Elected Guardians.
EAST RETFORD UNION—*continued.*			
21. Mainham	258	116	1
22. Normanton-on-Trent	349	121	1
23. Stokeham	48	38	1
24. Rampton	411	160	1
25. Cottam	77	45	1
26. South Leverton	323	167	1
27. North Leverton	308	132	1
28. Treswell	224	162	1
29. Hendon-cum-Upton	248	156	1
30. Grove	121	38	1
31. Littleborough	82	32	1
32. Sturton	638	332	1
33. South Wheatley	35	32	1
34. North Wheatley	435	188	1
35. Clayworth	459	237	1
36. Wiseton	118	20	1
37. Mattersea	455	199	1
38. Hayton	256	96	1
39. Sutton	419	120	1
40. Lound	382	141	1
41. Scrooby	281	89	1
42. Ranshill	347	59	1
43. Everton	708	259	1
44. Scaftworth	78	35	1
45. Applesthorpe	95	15	1
46. Bevercoates	51	22	1
47. Gringeley-on-the-Hill	735	265	1
48. Bainby Moor	224	98	1
49. Torworth	205	101	1
50. Haughton	55	54	1
TOTALS	20,071	7,475	51

Declared to take place from and after 1st July 1836.

MANSFIELD UNION:			
COUNTY OF NOTTINGHAM.			
1. Mansfield	9,426	2,812	5
2. Mansfield Woodhouse	1,859	623	1
3. Teversall	400	159	1
4. Sutton-in-Ashfield	4,805	1,222	2
5. Hucknall under Hathwaite	941	182	1
6. Blidworth	901	231	1
7. Skegby	656	160	1
8. Warsop	1,213	422	1
9. Sokeholme	68	20	1
COUNTY OF DERBY.			
10. Pleasley	611	276	1
11. Ault-Hucknall	618	200	1
12. Upper Langwith	165	115	1
13. Scarcliffe	524	187	1
14. Pinxton	868	110	1
15. South Normanton	1,154	290	1
16. Blackwell	432	204	1
17. Tibshelf	759	217	1
TOTALS	25,400	7,430	22

Declared to take place from and after 29th June, 1836.

NEWARK UNION COUNTY OF NOTTINGHAM:		Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	
1. Newark	9,557	2,846	4
2. Balderton	830	338	1
3. Barnby	237	137	1
4. Coddington	435	193	1
5. Farndon	570	208	1
6. Hawton	258	129	1
7. Staunton	93	56	1
8. Girton	183	50	1
9. North Collingham	881	313	1
10. South Collingham	727	254	1
11. Cotham	74	55	1
12. Langford	125	113	1
13. Winthorpe	228	57	1
14. South Scarle	157	51	1
15. Besthorpe	322	123	1
16. Kilvington	29	15	1

PARISHES UNITED. (NOTTINGHAM.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
NEWARK UNION—*continued.*			
COUNTY OF LINCOLN:		£.	
17. Thurlby	145	42	1
18. Long Bennington	982	419	1
19. Brant Broughton	627	219	1
20. Barkston	430	198	1
21. Caythorpe	720	298	1
22. Claypole	586	206	1
23. Doddington	230	82	1
24. Foston	441	173	1
25. Fulbeck	650	172	1
26. Hougham	565	95	1
27. Marston	419	188	1
28. Stubton	182	111	1
29. Syston	203	160	1
30. Westborough	215	65	1
31. Sedgebrook	252	159	1
32. Allington, East and West	357	186	1
33. Beckingham	401	186	1
34. Bassingham	704	172	1
35. Carlton-le-Moorland	328	108	1
36. Fenton	102	28	1
37. Norton Disney	210	104	1
38. Stapleford	185	68	1
39. North Scarle	479	101	1
40. Straggelthorpe	82	31	1
41. Swinderby	449	92	1
COUNTY OF NOTTINGHAM.			
42. South Clifton	340	104	1
43. Alverton	16	2	1
44. Spalford	83	16	1
TOTALS	25,089	8,723	47

Declared to take place from and after 24th March 1836.

NOTTINGHAM UNION:			
1. St. Mary	39,539	8,486	12
2. St. Peter	5,447	1,300	6
3. St. Nicholas	5,694	1,364	6
TOTALS	50,680	11,150	24

Declared to take place from and after the 6th July 1836.

RADFORD UNION:		Average for the Years 1834,–35,–36.	
1. Radford	12,000	1,361	8
2. Lenton	5,017	676	5
3. Snenton	5,210	547	5
4. Brewhouse-yard, Liberty of	80	29	1
TOTALS	22,307	2,613	19

Declared to take place from and after the 4th July 1836.

SOUTHWELL UNION:		Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	
1. Southwell	3,384	620	3
2. Morton	156	45	1
3. Bleasby	324	48	1
4. Halam	371	107	1
5. Farnsfield	1,010	184	1
6. Gonaldstone	107	73	1
7. Epperstone	518	213	1
8. Oxton	778	299	1
9. Lowdham	791	191	1
10. Caythorpe	289	92	1
11. Gunthorpe	383	100	1
12. Bulcote	142	34	1
13. Edwinstow	740	300	1
14. Budby	139	56	1
15. Ollerton	658	201	1
16. Clipstone	223	94	1
17. Perlethorpe	89	42	1
18. Kneesall	399	137	1
19. Kersall	94	27	1
20. Ompton	120	37	1

PARISHES UNITED. (NOTTINGHAM.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833 to 1835.	Number of elected Guardians.
SOUTHWELL UNION—*continued.*		£.	
21. Fiskerton	314	145	1
22. Edingley	398	116	1
23. Elston	552	152	1
24. Bilsthorpe	217	118	1
25. Kirton	247	87	1
26. Averham	182	113	1
27. Boughton	295	-	1
28. Caunton	542	241	1
29. Cromwell	184	91	1
30. Egmanton	341	77	1
31. Eakring	598	149	1
32. Halloughton	103	17	1
33. Hockerton	108	38	1
34. Holme	122	81	1
35. Hoveringham	347	135	1
36. Kelham	189	143	1
37. Kirklington	243	127	1
38. Saxton with Moorhouse	659	284	1
39. North Muskham	484	99	1
40. Bathley	197	58	1
41. South Muskham	261	198	1
42. Maplebeck	181	55	1
43. Norwell	533	211	1
44. Norwell Woodhouse	141	52	1
45. Carlton-upon-Trent	265	138	1
46. Ossington	257	150	1
47. Rolleston	272	110	1
48. Stoke, East	320	126	1
49. Sutton-on-Trent	1,002	374	1
50. Syerstone	138	41	1
51. Staythorpe	61	9	1
52. Thurgarton	329	63	1
53. Thorpe	105	38	1
54. Upton	533	182	1
55. Walesby	340	136	1
56. Wellow	473	104	1
57. Winkbourn	134	89	1
58. Weston	395	150	1
59. Grassthorpe	118	93	1
60. Rufford	340	285	1
TOTALS	23,235	7,782	62

Declared to take place from and after 25th April 1836.

WORKSOP UNION:		Average for the Years 1834,–35,–36.	
COUNTY OF NOTTINGHAM.			
1. Worksop	5,566	2,080	3
2. Carburton	143	90	1
3. Cuckney	633	196	1
4. Norton	324	166	1
5. Holbeck	244	124	1
6. Langwith, Nether	437	70	1
7. Carlton-in-Lindrick	974	268	1
8. Blyth	811	270	1
9. Hodsock	228	282	1
10. Styrrup	510	284	1
11. Harworth	526	272	1
COUNTY OF DERBY:			
12. Whitwell	1,007	260	2
13. Clown	637	147	1
14. Baelborough	713	366	1
15. Elmton	340	147	1
COUNTY OF YORK:			
16. Thorpe Solvin	233	68	1
17. Harthill and Woodhall	632	267	1
18. North and South Anston	840	294	1
19. Woodsetts	146	27	1
20. Gilden Wells	81	41	1
21. Dinnington	233	80	1
22. Letwell	155	47	1
23. Firbeck	178	105	1
24. St. John's, with Throapham	70	76	1
25. Todwick	224	41	1
26. Wales	226	97	1
TOTALS	16,111	6,165	29

Declared to take place from and after 2d July 1836.

COUNTY OF OXFORD.

PARISHES UNITED. (Oxford.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
CHIPPING NORTON UNION:			
County of Oxford:		£.	
1. Chipping Norton	2,262	1,374	3
2. Ascott	419	240	1
3. Bruern	41	43	1
4. Charlbury	1,433	897	2
5. Fawler	134	147	1
6. Finstock	519	409	1
7. Chadlington	681	367	1
8. Chilson	251	263	1
9. Chastleton	238	150	1
10. Churchhill	633	398	1
11. Cornwell	110	73	1
12. Eustone	1,172	708	2
13. Fifield	163	81	1
14. Idbury	185	142	1
15. Kingham	504	308	1
16. Over Norton	375	447	1
17. Great Rollright	438	529	1
18. Little Rollright	29	53	1
19. Salford	341	247	1
20. Sarsden	154	171	1
21. Shipton	506	252	1
22. Langley	64	40	1
23. Lyneham	237	176	1
24. Leafield	656	461	1
25. Milton	568	512	1
26. Spelsbury	609	305	1
27. Swerford	441	455	1
28. Heythrop and Dunthrop	123	168	1
29. Little Tew	216	208	1
30. Great Tew	440	373	1
County of Gloucester:			
31. Little Compton	314	203	1
County of Warwick:			
32. Barton-on-theHeath	208	99	1
33. Long Compton	891	702	1
Totals	15,355	11,001	37

Declared to take place from and after 18th September 1835.

HEADINGTON UNION:			
County of Oxford:			
1. Headington	1,388	930	2
2. Wheatley	976	828	1
3. Cuddesdon	317	382	1
4. Chippinghurst	30	35	1
5. Denton	137	145	1
6. Forrest Hill	142	81	1
7. Garsington	597	763	1
8. Holton	277	301	1
9. Horsepath	275	74	1
10. Shotover	149	114	1
11. Staunton, St. John	470	533	1
12. Stowood	26	40	1
13. Eldsfield	185	138	1
14. Woodeaton	86	35	1
15. Beckley	371	241	1
16. Studley and Horton	320	185	1
17. Marston	364	381	1
18. Cowley	558	305	1
19. Iffley and Hockmoor	656	420	1
20. St. Clements (Oxford)	1,836	696	2
21. St. Giles (Oxford)	2,855	972	2
County of Bucks:			
22. Studley and Horton		55	1
Totals	12,055	7,654	25

Declared to take place from and after 15th September 1835.

PARISHES UNITED. (Oxford.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
THAME UNION:			
County of Oxford:		£.	
1. Thame	2,885	5,012	3
2. Albury	41	100	1
3. Tiddington	198	155	1
4. Great Milton with Chilworth	784	532	1
5. Little Milton	473	681	1
6. Tetsworth	530	549	
7. Waterstock	142	77	1
8. Charlgrove	549	716	1
9. Easington	13	18	1
10. Great Hasely with Little Haseley	749	970	1
11. Lewknor with Postcomb	709	490	1
12. Lewknor-up-Hill		277	1
13. Emmington	80	95	1
14. Warpsgrove	36	10	1
15. Shirburn	325	336	1
16. Stoke Talmage	107	123	1
17. South Weston	118	119	1
18. Wheatfield	105	150	1
19. Adwell	48	19	1
20. Aston and Kingston	946	1,037	1
21. Crowell	159	178	1
22. Sydenham	423	623	1
23. Ascott	97	66	1
24. Waterperry	243	192	1
25. Thumley	35	36	1
County of Buckingham:			
26. Dorton	158	198	1
27. Shabbington	298	491	1
28. Worminghall	297	292	1
29. Oakley	413	415	1
30. Ickford	382	308	1
31. Long Crendon	1,382	2,729	2
32. Chilton	314	552	1
33. Kingsey	222	400	1
34. Brill	1,285	1,155	2
Totals	14,546	19,101	38

Declared to take place from and after 16th September 1835.

ADDITIONS which have been made to the Unions in the First Annual Report.

BANBURY UNION:			
From First Annual Report, page 385,			
38 Parishes	22,533	22,610	45
County of Oxford:			
*39. Barford, St. Michael	350	312	1
*40. South Newington	462	505	1
County of Warwick:			
*41. Mollington	360	219	1
County of Northampton:			
†42. Appletree	83	92	1
†43. Ashton-le-Wall	157	104	1
†44. Upper Boddington	295	373	1
†45. Lower Boddington	367	392	1
†46. Chipping Warden	500	535	1
County of Warwick:			
†47. Avon Dassett	226	190	1
†48. Farnborough	365	315	1
†49. Radway	315	168	1
†50. Ratley	376	303	1
†51. Warmington	470	438	1
Totals	26,859	26,556	58

* Addition to take place from and after 19th October 1835.
† Addition to take place from and after 6th June 1836.

COUNTY OF RUTLAND.

PARISHES UNITED. (RUTLAND.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
OAKHAM UNION:			
COUNTY OF RUTLAND:		£.	
1. Oakham Deanshold with Baileythorpe	832	316	1
2. Oakham Lordshold	1,558	616	2
3. Gunthorpe	4	2	1
4. Braunston	424	295	1
5. Brooke	95	25	1
6. Egleton	137	100	1
7. Langham	608	287	1
8. Ashwell	209	101	1
9. Burley	232	95	1
10. Cottesmore	487	163	1
11. Barrow	144	25	1
12. Exton	751	388	1
13. Greetham	505	216	1
14. Horn	18	5	1
15. Market Overton	470	193	1
16. Stretton	208	87	1
17. Teigh	176	41	1
18. Thisleton	150	58	1
19. Whissendine	800	269	1
20. Whitwell	124	28	1
21. Empingham	913	304	1
22. Tickencote	128	56	1
23. Edith Weston	337	127	1
24. Hambleton	297	251	1
25. Lyndon	102	38	1
26. Manton	229	85	1
27. Martinsthorpe	2	no poor	1
28. Normanton	33	45	1
COUNTY OF LEICESTER:			
29. Knossington	240	63	1
30. Cold Overton	123	52	1
TOTALS	10,336	4,333	31

Declared to take place from and after 29th April 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (RUTLAND.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1832,–33,–34.	Number of elected Guardians.
UPPINGHAM UNION:			
COUNTY OF RUTLAND:		£.	
1. Uppingham	1,754	371	2
2. Ayston	101	65	1
3. Preston	352	140	1
4. Ridlington	262	140	1
5. Wing	307	255	1
6. Belton	400	189	1
7. Wardley	50	14	1
8. Barrowden	485	238	1
9. Bisbrooke	177	131	1
10. Caldecott	266	237	1
11. Glaston	229	90	1
12. Lyddington	534	562	1
13. Luffenham, North	447	198	1
14. Luffenham, South	273	154	1
15. Morcott	480	230	1
16. Pilton	69	28	1
17. Seaton	346	301	1
18. Thorpe, by Water	89	55	1
19. Stoke Dry	50	31	1
COUNTY OF LEICESTER:			
20. Blaston	73	130	1
21. Bringhurst	85	120	1
22. Drayton	156	151	1
23. Easton Magna	541	735	1
24. Hallaton	653	341	1
25. Holt	42	32	1
26. Horninghold	97	57	1
27. Medbourne	513	656	1
28. Slawston	243	341	1
29. Stockerston	60	87	1
COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON:			
30. Fineshade	68	63	1
31. Gretton	762	748	1
32. Harringworth	358	369	1
33. Laxton	188	65	1
34. Rockingham	296	168	1
35. Wakerly	218	76	1
TOTALS	11,027	8,068	36

Declared to take place from and after 23d April 1836.

COUNTY OF SALOP.

BRIDGNORTH UNION:			
BRIDGNORTH BOROUGH:			
1. Liberty of Romsley, in the parish of Alveley	113	42	1
2. St. Leonard's	2,517	784	3
3. St. Mary Magdalen	2,268	584	3
4. Quatford	167	51	1
5. Quatt	328	219	1
6. Acton Round	203	114	1
7. Alveley	836	494	1
8. Astley Abbotts	666	336	1
9. Billingsley	161	80	1
10. Burwaston	112	37	1
11. Chelmarsh	439	239	1
12. Chelton	515	293	1
13. Claverley	1,521	701	2
14. Cleobury, North	187	41	1
15. Deuxhill	55	15	1
16. Ditton Priors	584	198	1
17. Township of Eardington, in the parish of Quatford	325	155	1
18. Glazeley	47	24	1
19. Middleton Scriven	99	34	1
20. Monkhopton	208	105	1
21. Morville	397	204	1
22. Township of Aston Eyres, in the parish of Morville	120	69	1
23. Neenton	120	40	1
24. Oldbury	126	70	1
BRIDGNORTH UNION—*cont.*			
25. Sidbury	103	30	1
26. Stanton, Long	278	159	1
27. Tasley	102	60	1
28. Upton Cressett	43	48	1
29. Worfield	1,676	674	2
TOTALS	14,316	5,900	35

Declared to take place from and after 31st May 1836.

CHURCH STRETTON UNION:		Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	
1. Church Stretton	1,302	298	2
2. Acton Scott	204	89	1
3. Cardington	718	238	1
4. Easthope	103	26	1
5. Eaton-under-Haywood	539	379	1
6. Hope Bowdler	202	71	1
7. Leilotwood	223	70	1
8. Longnor	244	98	1
9. Rushbury	507	160	1
10. Shipton	154	126	1
11. Sibdon Carwood	63	30	1
12. Smethcott	366	111	1
13. Wistanstow	989	580	1
14. Woolstaston	89	20	1
TOTALS	5,703	2,296	15

Declared to take place from and after 20th July 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (SALOP.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1834,–35,–36.	Number of elected Guardians.
CLEOBURY MORTIMER:			
COUNTY OF SALOP:		£.	
1. Cleobury Mortimer	1,716	555	2
2. Aston Botterel	260	83	1
3. Coreley	553	245	1
4. Higley	404	94	1
5. Hopton Wafers	473	118	1
6. Kinlet	532	250	1
7. Loughton	112	27	1
8. Milsom	156	52	1
9. Neen Savage	450	165	1
10. Neen Solars	208	94	1
11. Silvington	30	8	1
12. Stottesden	1,234	575	2
13. Whenthill	123	32	1
COUNTY OF WORCESTER:			
14. Bayton	445	129	1
15. Mamble	355	145	1
16. Rock	1,307	323	2
COUNTY OF HEREFORD:			
17. Farlow	345	95	1
TOTALS	8,703	2,990	20
Declared to take place from and after 15th July 1836.			
CLUNN UNION:			
COUNTY OF SALOP:			
1. Clunn	1,996	880	2
2. Bishop's Castle, borough	1,729	358	2
3. Bishop's Castle, parish	278	247	1
4. Clunbury	959	471	1
5. Clungunford	488	322	1
6. Edglon	232	75	1
7. Hopesay	571	289	1
8. Hopton Castle	145	90	1
9. Lydbury, North	955	362	1
10. Lydham, that part of which lies in Shropshire	123	106	1
11. Mainstone, ditto	280	109	1
12. Mindtown	36	24	1
13. More	272	182	1
14. Norbury	382	168	1
15. Ratlinghope	252	67	1
16. Shelve	71	21	1
17. Wentnor	707	260	1
COUNTIES OF SALOP AND MONTGOMERY:			
18. Hyssington	337	95	1
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY:			
19. Snead	57	29	1
TOTALS	9,870	4,155	21
Declared to take place from and after 18th July 1836.			
LUDLOW UNION:			
COUNTY OF SALOP:			
1. Ludlow	5,253	1,197	5
2. Atdon	170	46	1
3. Ashford Bowdler	99	57	1
4. Ashford Carbonel	289	139	1
5. Bitterley	1,194	539	2
6. Bromfield	517	477	1
7. Cainham	1,005	350	1
8. Clee, St. Margaret	294	66	1
9. Cola, Weston	25	2	1
10. Culmington	515	219	1
11. Diddlebury	920	516	1
12. Holdgate	188	95	1
13. Hope Baggot	62	9	1
14. Hopton Cangeford	30	14	1
15. Munslow	680	272	1
16. Onibury	438	156	1
17. Richard's Caste, part of	324	148	1
18. Stanton Lacy	1,467	425	2
19. Stoke, St. Milborough	555	219	1
20. Stoke, St. Heath	42	10	1
21. Halford	133	86	1
22. Stokesay	529	312	1
23. Tagford	188	94	1

PARISHES UNITED. (SALOP.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1834,–35,–36.	Number of elected Guardians.
LUDLOW UNION—*continued.*			
COUNTIES OF SALOP AND HEREFORD:		£.	
24. Ludford	284	217	1
COUNTY OF HEREFORD:			
25. Aston, or Pipe Aston	56	7	1
26. Burrington	230	104	1
27. Downton	111	103	1
28. Elton	85	38	1
29. Leinthall Starkes	127	35	1
30. Leintwardine, Northside	928	695	1
31. Richard's Caste, part of	262	199	1
32. Wigmore	476	126	1
TOTALS	17,476	6,972	38
Declared to take place from and after 15th July 1836.			
MADELEY UNION:		Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	
1. Madeley	5,822	1,882	6
2. Barrow	351	464	1
3. Benthall	525	326	1
4. Broseley	4,299	1,154	5
5. Buildwas	240	289	1
6. Dawley Magna	6,877	1,143	7
7. Linley	111	89	1
8. Little Wenlock	1,057	230	2
9. Much Wenlock	2,424	991	3
10. Posenhall	28	9	1
11. Stirchley	271	117	1
12. Willey	159	158	1
TOTALS	22,164	6,852	30
Declared to take place from and after 6th June 1836.			
SHIFFNAL UNION:			
COUNTY OF SALOP:			
1. Shiffnall	4,779	1,639	5
2. Albrighton	1,054	378	2
3. Badger	142	15	1
4. Beckbury	307	101	1
5. Bonninghall, otherwise Bonningall	168	63	1
6. Donnington	313	179	1
7. Kemberton	282	80	1
8. Ryton	154	77	1
9. Stockton	459	281	1
10. Sutton Maddock	384	418	1
11. Tong	510	284	1
COUNTY OF STAFFORD:			
12. Blymhill	735	256	1
13. Patshull	119	62	1
14. Sheriff Hales	914	391	1
15. Weston-under-Lizard	257	156	1
TOTALS	10,577	4,380	20
Declared to take place from and after 2d June 1836.			
WELLINGTON UNION:			
1. Wellington	9,671	2,420	5
2. Bolas Magna	255	156	1
3. Ercall Magna	2,048	1,248	2
4. Eyton-on-the-Wild-Moors	350	161	1
5. Kinnersley	295	75	1
6. Longdon-upon-Fern	109	56	1
7. Preston-on-the-wild-Moors	218	144	1
8. Rodington	423	203	1
9. Upton Waters	193	71	1
10. Wombridge	1,855	665	2
11. Wrockwardine	2,528	1,008	3
TOTALS	17,945	6,207	19
Declared to take place from and after 4th June 1836.			

COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

PARISHES UNITED. (Somerset.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
AXBRIDGE UNION:		£.	
1. Axbridge	998	311	1
2. Nyland with Batcombe	52	23	1
3. Week, St. Lawrance	281	202	1
4. Kewstoke	467	216	1
5. Weston-super-Mare	1,310	246	2
6. Congresbury	1,327	513	2
7. Puxton	145	88	1
8. Churchill	985	360	1
9. Worle	770	215	1
10. Locking	212	43	1
11. Uphill	306	84	1
12. Hutton	381	138	1
13. Banwell	1,623	1,033	2
14. Christon	83	38	1
15. Winscombe	1,526	685	2
16. Rowberrow	392	169	1
17. Shipham	691	235	1
18. Burrington	579	277	1
19. Blagdon	1,109	385	2
20. Bleadon	599	198	1
21. Breane	134	69	1
22. Loxton	148	12	1
23. Compton Bishop	554	281	1
24. Lympsham	521	335	1
25. Berrow	496	254	1
26. East Brent	802	565	1
27. South Brent	890	452	1
28. Burnham with Aston Morris	1,113	336	2
29. Mark	1,289	491	2
30. Wedmore	3,557	1,395	3
31. Badgworth	352	271	1
32. Chapel Allerton	313	138	1
33. Biddisham	158	59	1
34. Cheddar	1,980	480	2
35. Weare	764	393	1
36. Wrington with Broadfield	1,540	482	2
37. Charter House (Ville)	105	50	1
38. Birtcombe	242	93	1
Totals	28,794	11,615	49

Declared to take place from and after 28th January 1836.

BATH UNION:			
1. St. James (City of Bath)	5,848	2,013	3
2. St. Michael (City of Bath)	3,526	1,869	2
3. St. Peter & St. Paul (City of Bath)	2,666	962	2
4. Walcot (City of Bath)	26,023	7,200	8
5. Lyncombe & Widcombe	8,704	2,018	4
6. Bathwick	4,033	1,419	2
7. Bath Easton	1,783	627	1
8. Bath Ford	870	304	1
9. Bath Hampton	314	158	1
10. St. Catherine	154	114	1
11. Langridge	109	16	1
12. Woolley	104	52	1
13. Swanswick	427	126	1
14. Charlcomb	107	33	1
15. Weston	2,560	701	2
16. Tiverton	2,478	306	2
17. English Combe	388	189	1
18. South Stoke	266	128	1
19. Moncton Combe	1,031	295	1
20. Dunkerton	718	196	1
21. Combhay	260	181	1
22. Wellow	960	451	1
23. Claverton	166	50	1
24. Charterhouse Hinton	735	520	1
Totals	64,230	19,928	41

Declared to take place from and after 28th March 1836.

BEDMINSTER UNION:			
1. Bedminster	13,130	4,734	6
2. Nailsen	2,114	601	2
3. Portbury	621	308	1
4. Easton in Gordano or St. George's	2,255	586	2
5. Abbots Leigh	360	142	1
6. Portishead	800	166	1
7. Weston in Gordano	124	69	1
8. Clapton	167	55	1
9. Walton in Gordano	297	86	1
10. Long Ashton	1,423	510	2
11. Wraxall	802	311	1
12. Flax Bourton	219	88	1
13. Barrow Gurney	279	95	1
14. Tickenham	427	131	1
15. Clevedon	1,147	233	2
16. Kenn	274	65	1
17. Kingston Seymour	368	126	1
18. Yatton	1,865	613	2
19. Chelvey	70	33	1
20. Backwell	1,038	283	2
21. Brockley	171	27	1
22. Winford	865	286	1
23. Dundry	583	204	1
Totals	29,399	9,752	34

Declared to take place from and after 11th April 1836.

BRIDGEWATER UNION:			
1. Bridgewater	7,807	2,916	5
2. Huntspill	1,503	661	2
3. Pawlet	577	221	1
4. Puriton with Woollavington	509	146	1
5. Woollavington	412	232	1
6. Cossington	280	134	1
7. Shapwick	452	165	1
8. Ashcot	834	156	1
9. Bawdrip	373	124	1
10. Moorlinch	350	70	1
11. Catcot	651	168	1
12. Chilton-upon-Poldon	423	187	1
13. Edington	401	146	1
14. Stowell	214	97	1
15. Sutton Mallet	153	89	1
16. Greinton	219	89	1
17. Othery	581	326	1
18. Middlezoy	679	157	1
19. Weston Zoyland	937	429	1
20. Chedzoy	549	451	1
21. Chilton Trinity	49	55	1
22. North Petherton	3,566	2,369	3
23. Michael Church	32	6	1
24. Durleigh	139	138	1
25. Wembdon	289	202	1
26. Broomfield	503	433	1
27. Goathurst	349	280	1
28. Enmore	294	186	1
29. Spaxton	963	601	1
30. Charlinch	199	204	1
31. Cannington	1,424	772	2
32. Eastock & Beer, Ham. of	13	21	1
33. Otterhampton	240	182	1
34. Stockland Bristol	202	102	1
35. Nether Stowey	778	309	1
36. Fiddington	210	87	1
37. Overstowey	592	147	1
38. Asholt	228	95	1
39. Lyng	363	166	1
40. Thurloxton	229	68	1
Totals	28,566	13,387	48

Declared to take place from and after 11th May 1836.

CHARD UNION:			
1. Chard Parish	5,141	1,265	3
2. Chard Borough		432	2
3. Hinton, St. George	850	323	1
4. Crewkerne	3,789	1,439	3
5. Wayford	219	166	1
6. Winsham	932	635	1
7. Cricket, St. Thomas	86	37	1
8. Cudworth	146	29	1
9. Chellington	311	108	1
10. Dowlish Wake	380	187	1
11. Kingston	292	104	1

PARISHES UNITED. (Somerset.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years. 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
Chard Union—*continued.*		£.	
12. Whitelackington	254	171	1
13. Stocklinch, Magdalen	95	57	1
14. Stocklinch, Ottersey	120	46	1
15. Ilton	530	123	1
16. Ashill	403	126	1
17. Broadway	450	162	1
18. Ilminster	2,957	1,142	3
19. Donyatt	557	217	1
20. West Dowlish	38	37	1
21. Cricket Malherby	28	52	1
22. Knowles, St. Giles	108	57	1
23. Chaffcombe	243	75	1
24. Whitstaunton	318	207	1
25. Combe, St. Nicholas	1,202	412	2
26. Buckland, St. Mary	646	402	1
27. Shepton Beauchamp	648	228	1
28. Seavington-St. Mary	366	109	1
29. Seavington-St. Michael	210	66	1
30. Dinnington, (Chapelry of)	187	113	1
31. Lopen	502	209	1
32. Merriott	1,405	557	2
33. Wambrook	217	102	1
34. Yarcombe	804	661	1
Totals	23,434	10,056	43

Declared to take place from and after 14th May 1836.

CLUTTON UNION:			
1. Clutton	1,287	791	2
2. Camely	658	222	1
3. Hinton-Blewett	325	124	1
4. Stowey	243	130	1
5. Littleton, High, with Hallatrow	911	474	1
6. Timsbury	1,367	466	2
7. Paulton	1,784	578	2
8. Farrington Gurney	568	259	1
9. Midsomer Norton	2,942	1,022	3
10. Camerton	1,326	310	2
11. Radstock	1,165	298	2
12. Chilcompton	487	221	1
13. Litton	414	212	1
14. East Harptree	695	181	1
15. West Harptree	536	215	1
16. Compton	572	250	1
17. Ubley	340	119	1
18. Nempneth	225	116	1
19. Chew Magna	2,048	993	2
20. Norton Hawkfield	40	19	1
21. Chew Stoke	693	262	1
22. Stanton Drew	731	395	1
23. Norton Malreward	110	132	1
24. Chelwood	246	120	1
25. Publow	839	592	1
26. St. Thomas in Pensford	355	102	1
27. Farmborough	924	323	1
28. Stone Easton	386	193	1
29. Whitcomb	160	53	1
Totals	22,377	9,172	37

Declared to take place from and after 2d February 1836.

DULVERTON UNION:			
1. Dulverton	1,285	629	2
2. Brompton Regis	802	513	1
3. Upton	344	136	1
4. Skilgate	227	164	1
5. Brushford	351	199	1
6. Exford	447	183	1
7. Winsford	524	423	1
8. Exton	347	163	1
9. Withypoole	212	66	1
10. Hawkridge	67	31	1
11. Huish Champflower	345	161	1
Totals	4,951	2,668	12

Declared to take place from and after 18th May 1836.

FROME UNION:			
1. Frome	12,240	6,656	5
2. Mills	1,259	804	2
3. Elm	427	245	1
4. Buckland Denham	532	253	1
5. Hardington	28	49	1
6. Hemington	384	174	1
7. Norton, St. Philip	767	348	1

PARISHES UNITED. (Somerset.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
Frome Union—*continued.*		£.	
8. Tellesford	162	215	1
9. Farleigh Hungerford	168	141	1
10. Woolverton	207	162	1
11. Road	954	612	1
12. Beckington	1,340	1,269	2
13. Berkeley	531	637	1
14. Roden	295	194	1
15. Marston Biggott	485	354	1
16. Nunney	1,204	1,054	2
17. Cloford	302	245	1
18. Whatley	386	385	1
19. Witham Friary	574	581	1
20. Leigh-upon-Mendip	640	607	1
21. Wanstrow	410	380	1
22. Kilmersdon	2,129	1,022	2
23. Lullington	145	87	1
24. Laverton	196	48	1
25. Orchardleigh	27	39	1
26. Forscote	102	16	1
27. Writhlington	245	130	1
28. Standerwick	97	82	1
Totals	26,236	16,789	36

Declared to take place from and after 26th March 1836.

KEYNSHAM UNION:			
County of Somerset:			
1. Keynsham	2,142	796	2
2. Brislington	1,294	527	1
3. Whitchurch otherwise Felton	423	108	1
4. Queen Charlton	168	60	1
5. Saltford	380	114	1
6. Compton Dando	382	129	1
7. Corston	433	156	1
8. North Stoke	128	9	1
9. Kelston	274	149	1
10. Burnet	82	38	1
11. Newton, St. Loe	477	212	1
12. Marksbury	371	120	1
13. Stanton Prior	159	58	1
14. Preston	308	146	1
County of Gloucester:			
15. Bitton	2,258	953	2
16. Hansham	1,212	481	1
17. Oldland	5,233	1,229	4
18. Mangotsfield	3,508	1,240	3
19. Siston	973	515	1
Totals	20,205	7,040	26

Declared to take place from and after 29th March 1836.

LANGPORT UNION:			
1. Langport	1,245	242	2
2. Kington Manfield	459	74	1
3. Kingweston	122	55	1
4. Barton, St. David	410	49	1
5. Compton Dundon	623	252	1
6. Babcary	453	206	1
7. Charlton Adam	480	125	1
8. Charlton Mackrell	366	218	1
9. Somerton	1,786	666	2
10. High Ham	1,027	207	2
11. Aller	490	224	1
12. Pitney	368	77	1
13. Kingsdon	610	294	1
14. Long Sutton	957	356	1
15. Kinsbury Episcopi	1,695	559	2
16. Muchelney	310	97	1
17. Huish Episcopi	574	113	1
18. Curry Rivall	1,378	485	2
19. Drayton	519	212	1
20. Barrington	468	240	1
21. Puckington	182	79	1
22. Bradon, South	34	6	1
23. Isle Brewers	254	128	1
24. Isle Abbots	380	142	1
25. Fivehead	387	114	1
26. Sivell	87	46	1
27. Bercocombe	182	68	1
28. Curry Mallet	496	121	1
29. Earnshill	12	no poor	1
Totals	16,354	5,455	34

Declared to take place from and after 10th May 1836

PARISHES UNITED. (SOMERSET.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
SHEPTON MALLET UNION:		£.	
1. Shepton Mallet	5,330	3,671	4
2. Lamyat	204	136	1
3. Batcombe	839	588	1
4. Upton Noble	282	194	1
5. East Cranmore	64	37	1
6. Downhead	221	211	1
7. Stoke-lane, or Stoke, St. Michael	980	559	1
8. Stratton-on-the-Foss	407	200	1
9. Holcombe	538	404	1
10. Emborough	207	182	1
11. Binegar	376	250	1
12. Croscombe	803	297	1
13. Pilton	1,118	647	2
14. Pylle	205	97	1
15. East Pennard	726	561	1
16. Hornblotton	118	86	1
17. Ditcheat	1,238	1,108	2
18. Milton Clevedon	242	120	1
19. Evercreech	1,490	643	2
20. West Cranmore	298	188	1
21. Doulting	630	501	1
22. Ashwick	995	576	1
23. Babington	206	155	1
24. East Lydford	166	81	1
25. West Lydford	357	273	1
TOTALS	18,040	11,765	31
Declared to take effect from and after 30th December 1835.			
TAUNTON UNION:			
1. Taunton, St. James	3,120	1,691	3
2. Taunton, St. Mary Magdalen	8,019	3,938	5
3. Durston	226	172	1
4. West Monkton	1,155	813	2
5. Creech-St. Michael	1,116	420	2
6. Riston, alias Ruishton	400	142	1
7. Thorn Falcon	273	106	1
8. Stoke-St. Mary	275	129	1
9. Thurlbere	202	118	1
10. West Hatch	396	89	1
11. Hatch Beauchamp	324	117	1
12. Bicknell	270	77	1
13. Staple Fitzpaine	415	124	1
14. Pelminster	1,426	1,129	2
15. Angersleigh	54	40	1
16. Corfe	271	105	1
17. Orchard Portman	112	53	1
18. Trull	506	376	1
19. Wilton	795	424	1
20. Bishop's Hull	1,155	476	2
21. Norton Fitzwarren	545	315	1
22. Staplegrove	457	319	1
23. Ash Priors	210	73	1
24. Bishop's Lydeard	1,295	710	2
25. Cothelstone	120	69	1
26. Kingston	902	865	1
27. Cheddon Fitzpaine	325	163	1
28. Stoke, St. Gregory	1,507	881	2
29. North Curry	1,833	1,356	2
30. West Bagborough	453	181	1
31. Combe Florey	316	127	1
32. Otterford	406	228	1
33. Curland	167	44	1
34. Lydeard, St. Lawrance	654	422	1
35. Tolland	121	58	1
36. Halse	444	220	1
37. Heathfield	136	77	1
38. Churchstanton	977	511	1
TOTALS	31,378	17,158	51
Declared to take place from and after the 12th May 1836.			
WELLINGTON UNION:			
COUNTY OF SOMERSET:			
1. Wellington	4,762	1,802	4
2. West Buckland	793	356	1
3. Bradford	525	244	1
4. Hillfarence	579	262	1
5. Nynehead	311	200	1
6. Oake	147	161	1
7. Milverton	2,233	1,128	3
8. Fitzhead	311	220	1
9. Wiveliscombe	3,047	1,375	3
10. Chipstable	343	149	1

PARISHES UNITED. (SOMERSET.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
WELLINGTON UNION—*cont^d.*		£.	
11. Raddington	105	71	1
12. Badialton	98	61	1
13. Langford Budville	608	286	1
14. Kittisford	171	83	1
15. Stanley	180	125	1
16. Ashbrittle	625	312	1
17. Thorn, St. Margaret	165	107	1
18. Runnington	127	31	1
19. Sampford Arundel	427	219	1
COUNTY OF DEVON:			
20. Holcombe Rogus	915	411	1
21. Burlescombe	999	667	2
22. Culmstock	1,519	1,083	2
23. Hemyock	1,228	1,252	2
24. Clayhidon	767	543	1
TOTALS	20,985	11,148	34
Declared to take effect from and after 17th May 1836.			
WELLS UNION:			
1. In-Parish of St. Cuthbert (Wells.)	3,430	1,051	3
2. Out-Parish of St. Cuthbert (Wells.)	2,838	1,248	3
3. Liberty of St. Andrew (Wells.)	381	165	1
4. St. Benedict, St. John (Glastonbury.)	2,984	1,597	3
5. Priddy	202	36	1
6. Rodney Stoke	333	54	1
7. Westbury	681	142	1
8. Wookey	1,110	412	2
9. Meare	1,296	448	2
10. Baltonsborough	675	273	1
11. West Bradley	132	73	1
12. West Pennard	920	467	1
13. Dinder	210	169	1
14. North Wootton	307	84	1
15. Chewton Mendip	1,115	541	2
16. Butleigh	952	492	1
17. Street	899	258	1
18. Walton	732	173	1
TOTALS	19,197	7,683	27
Declared to take place from and after 1st January 1836.			
WILLITON UNION:			
1. Stogumber	1,294	997	2
2. Kilve	233	110	1
3. East Quantoxhead	277	97	1
4. West Quantoxhead	222	84	1
5. Bicknoller	285	108	1
6. Crowcombe	691	320	1
7. Brompton Ralph	424	237	1
8. Elworthy	210	131	1
9. Clatworthy	246	207	1
10. Treborough	105	83	1
11. Monksilver	322	171	1
12. Nettlecombe	325	274	1
13. Withycombe	332	135	1
14. St. Decumans	2,120	1,116	2
15. Sampford Brett	197	135	1
16. Porlock	830	228	1
17. Oare	70	54	1
18. Kilnor alias Culborne	62	21	1
19. Stoke Pero	61	15	1
20. Luckham	546	203	1
21. Selworthy	558	264	1
22. Minehead	1,481	624	2
23. Wootton Courtney	426	211	1
24. Cutcombe	709	375	1
25. Luxborough	381	249	1
26. Timberscombe	453	232	1
27. Dunster	983	369	1
28. Carhampton	658	468	1
29. Withiel Florey	89	91	1
30. Old Cleve	1,347	737	2
31. Kilton	141	65	1
32. Stringston	128	78	1
33. Holford	188	74	1
34. Dodington	93	19	1
35. Lilstock	64	36	1
36. Stogursey	1,496	679	2
TOTALS	18,047	9,297	41
Declared to take place from and after 19th May 1836.			

PARISHES UNITED. (Somerset.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
WINCANTON UNION:		£.	
County of Somerset.			
1. Wincanton	2,123	2,170	2
2. North Brewham	395	486	1
3. South Brewham	573	665	1
4. Bruton	2,223	1,294	2
5. Pitcombe	480	308	1
6. Castle Cary	1,794	1,272	2
7. Ansford or Almsford	304	244	1
8. Alford	137	67	1
9. Lovington	214	193	1
10. Wheathill	56	25	1
11. Yarlington	283	153	1
12. Maperton	187	138	1
13. North Cadbury	1,109	571	1
14. South Cadbury	231	92	1
15. Compton Pauncefoot	228	213	1
16. Blackford	192	106	1
17. Sutton Montis or Montague	178	42	1
18. Weston Bamfylde	123	59	1
19. Queen Camel	664	289	1
20. Sparkford	257	138	1
21. North Barrow	150	98	1
22. South Barrow	139	62	1
23. Stoke Trister	428	270	1
24. Cucklington	280	215	1
25. Penselwood	361	119	1
26. Charlton Musgrove	415	365	1
27. Shepton Montague	452	281	1
28. Bratton	59	27	1
29. Holton	209	136	1
30. North Cheriton	246	260	1
31. Horsington	968	812	1
32. Stowell	123	94	1
33. Charlton Horethorne	485	246	1
34. Abbas Combe & Temple Combe	448	420	1
35. Hensbridge	1,074	853	1
36. Milborne Port	2,072	848	2
37. Corton Denham	494	393	1
County of Dorset.			
38. Buckhorne Weston	403	311	1
39. Kington Magna	539	461	1
Total	21,096	14,796	43

Declared to take place from and after 30th December 1835.

PARISHES UNITED. (Somerset.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
YEOVIL UNION:		£.	
1. Yeovil	5,921	1,822	4
2. Pudimore Milton	175	68	1
3. West Camel	322	193	1
4. Northover	138	68	1
5. Ilchester or Ivelchester	975	544	2
6. Yeovilton	273	114	1
7. Limington	313	238	1
8. Chilton Canteloe	127	58	1
9. Ashington	74	58	1
10. Mudford	422	186	1
11. Tintenhull	473	129	1
12. Chilthorne Domer	236	143	1
13. Thorn Coffin	101	40	1
14. Stoke under Hamdon	1,365	496	2
15. Montacute	1,028	387	2
16. Lufton	20	11	1
17. Preston	347	152	1
18. Brimpton	100	50	1
19. Odcombe	616	238	1
20. Norton under Hamdon	513	193	1
21. South Petherton	2,294	749	3
22. West Chinnock	523	136	1
23. Chiselborough	483	185	1
24. Middle Chinnock	216	53	1
25. East Chinnock	673	219	1
26. West Coker	1,013	370	2
27. East Coker	1,330	401	2
28. Barwick	415	120	1
29. Hardington Mandeville	603	176	1
30. Sutton Bingham	78	12	1
31. Closworth	195	44	1
32. Pendomer	98	75	1
33. North Perrot	454	187	1
34. Haselbury Plucknett	826	351	1
35. Martock	2,841	992	3
Total	25,581	9,258	47

Declared to take place from and after 13th May 1836.

COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON.

NEW FOREST UNION:			
1. Beaulieu	1,298	1,085	2
2. Bramshaw (Hants)	799	825	2
3. Bramshaw (Wilts)			
4. Dibden	418	383	1
5. Eling	4,624	2,707	5
6. Exbury with Leap	325	232	1
7. Fawley	1,839	1,023	2
8. Lyndhurst	1,236	407	2
9. Minstead	1,074	376	2
Totaes	11,613	7,048	17

Declared to take place from and after the 29th August 1835.

PORTSEA ISLAND UNION:		Average of the Years 1834,–35,–36.	
1. Portsea	42,306	12,000	14
2. Portsmouth	8,083	3,104	7
Totals	50,389	15,104	21

Declared to take place from and after the 18th July 1836.

COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

Board of Guardians.		£.	
Stoke-upon-Trent	37,220	11,550	24

Declared to take place from and after the 30th April 1836.

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK.

PARISHES UNITED. (SUFFOLK.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
BOSMERE and CLAYDON UNION:		£.	
1. Akenham	119	107	1
2. Ashbocking	234	246	1
3. Badley	82	200	1
4. Barham	325	328	1
5. Barking Parish, including Needham Market	1,884	1,164	2
6. Battisford	436	254	1
7. Bailham, or Baylham	238	257	1
8. Blakenham, Great	192	165	1
9. Blakenham, Little	102	131	1
10. Bramford	874	846	1
11. Bricett, Great	284	442	1
12. Claydon	402	336	1
13. Coddenham	913	693	1
14. Creeting-All Saints	294	278	1
15. Creeting-St. Mary	129	214	1
16. Creeting-St. Olave	44	35	1
17. Crowfield	360	473	1
18. Darmsden	73	156	1
19. Flowton	185	200	1
20. Gosbeck	319	296	1
21. Helmingham	286	384	1
22. Hemingstone	342	283	1
23. Henley	305	317	1
24. Mickfield	257	301	1
25. Nettlestead	74	111	1
26. Offtone	399	425	1
27. Ringshall	337	303	1
28. Stonham Aspal	612	748	1
29. Stonham Earl	757	715	1
30. Stonham Parva	329	287	1
31. Somersham	446	212	1
32. Swilland	272	207	1
33. Willisham	224	131	1
34. Ashfield with Thorpe	375	423	1
35. Debenham	1,629	986	2
36. Tramsden	642	961	1
37. Pettaugh	284	380	1
38. Winston	398	311	1
TOTALS	15,957	14,306	40

Declared to take place from and after 8th September 1835.

HARTISMERE UNION:			
1. Aspall	126	92	1
2. Mendlesham	1,233	949	2
3. Stoke Ash	392	456	1
4. Wetherigsett-cum-Brockford	1,001	937	2
5. Bottesdale	655	509	1
6. Thornham Parva	206	220	1
7. Rickenhall Superior	774	702	1
8. Thornham Magna	380	347	1
9. Gislingham	660	574	1
10. Cotton	585	695	1
11. Finningham	497	622	1
12. Thwaite	175	225	1
13. Wyverstone	316	406	1
14. Westhorpe	263	224	1
15. Wickham Skeith	556	651	1
16. Bacton	758	1,052	1
17. Redlingfield	235	256	1
18. Braiseworth	156	97	1
19. Broome	377	273	1
20. Rishangles	242	469	1
21. Eye	2,313	2,470	3
22. Palgrave	760	695	1
23. Burgate	343	449	1
24. Thrandeston	358	370	1
25. Yaxley	478	654	1
26. Wortham	1,016	1,345	2
27. Mellis	513	579	1
28. Thorndon-All Saints	696	1,206	1
29. Oakley	365	248	1
30. Occold	513	544	1
31. Sturston	212	218	1
32. Redgrave	712	678	1
TOTALS	17,871	19,212	37

Declared to take place from and after 1st September 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (SUFFOLK.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
IPSWICH UNION:		£.	
1. St. Clement's	4,779	3,385	3
2. St. Helen	961	589	1
3. St. Lawrence	565	506	1
4. St. Margaret	4,300	2,106	3
5. St. Mary-at-Elms	778	367	1
6. St. Mary-at-the-Quay	1,039	915	1
7. St. Mary Stoke	789	1,065	1
8. St. Mary-at-the-Town	951	554	1
9. St. Mathew	2,204	1,235	2
10. St. Nicholas	1,313	723	1
11. St. Peter	1,646	1,292	2
12. St. Stephen	530	425	1
13. Westerfield	327	215	1
14. Whitton	346	303	1
TOTALS	20,528	13,685	20

Declared to take place from and after 9th September 1835.

MILDENHALL UNION;			
1. Kentford	173	52	1
2. Barton Mills	591	289	1
3. Cavenham	261	179	1
4. Eriswell	403	314	1
5. Freckenham	427	283	1
6. Herringswell	239	109	1
7. Icklingham, St. James and All Saints	473	236	1
8. Lackenheath	1,209	1,123	1
9. Mildenhall (St. Andrew's)	3,267	2,660	3
10. Tuddenham (St. Mary)	388	256	1
11. Wangford (St. Dennis)	53	55	1
12. Worlington	368	327	1
13. Elvedon, otherwise Elden	248	915	1
TOTALS	8,100	5,978	15

Declared to take place from and after 12th November 1835.

PLOMESGATE UNION:			
1. Brandeston	569	469	1
2. Butley	356	190	1
3. Campsea Ash	592	431	1
4. Cretingham	387	628	1
5. Earlsoham	762	708	1
6. Easton	362	481	1
7. Eyke	485	480	1
8. Framlingham	2,445	1,707	2
9. Hacheston	549	636	1
10. Hoo	186	217	1
11. Kenton	261	327	1
12. Kittleburgh	388	523	1
13. Letheringham	174	226	1
14. Marlesford	433	457	1
15. Monewden	207	280	1
16. Rendlesham	261	391	1
17. Wickham Market	1,202	765	1
18. Aldeburgh	1,340	890	1
19. Benhall	668	785	1
20. Blaxhall	525	598	1
21. Bruisyard	292	321	1
22. Chillesford	179	166	1
23. Cransford	323	430	1
24. Farnham	216	297	1
25. Freston	466	735	1
26. Great Glemham	399	474	1
27. Little Glemham	361	372	1
28. Haselwood	90	151	1
29. Iken	382	480	1
30. Orford	1,302	473	1
31. Parham	502	530	1
32. Rendham	449	546	1
33. Saxmundham	1,048	621	1
34. Snape	514	610	1
35. Sternfield	203	184	1
36. Stratford, St. Andrew	200	191	1
37. Sudborne	631	954	1
38. Swefling	336	263	1
39. Tunstall	733	819	1
40. Wantisden	125	141	1
TOTALS	20,703	19,947	41

Declared to take place from and after 5th October 1835.

PARISHES UNITED. (SUFFOLK.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
RISBRIDGE UNION:			
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK:		£.	
1. Barnardiston	206	246	1
2. Great Bradley	527	454	1
3. Little Bradley	22	208	1
4. Clare	1,619	973	2
5. Cowling	845	941	1
6. Denerdiston, otherwise Denston	341	351	1
7. Haverhill	1,758	1,366	2
8. Hundon	1,211	904	1
9. Kedington	842	564	1
10. Poslinford with Chipley	316	265	1
11. Stansfield	470	453	1
12. Stoke by Clare	792	757	1
13. Stradishall	393	339	1
14. Great Thurlow	425	480	1
15. Little Thurlow	464	314	1
16. Whixoe	146	101	1
17. Wickhambrook	1,400	1,436	1
18. Withersfield	545	280	1
19. Great Wratting	344	171	1
20. Little Wratting	212	250	1
COUNTY OF ESSEX:			
21. Helion's Bumpstead	847	915	1
22. Steeple Bumpstead	1,080	1,194	1
23. Sturmer	320	250	1
24. Ashen	373	269	1
25. Ovington	179	71	1
26. Birdbrook	515	783	1
TOTALS	16,192	14,315	28

Declared to take place from and after 3d November 1835.

STOW UNION:			
1. Buxhall	466	463	1
2. Combs	950	539	1
3. Creeting-St. Peter, or West	166	204	1
4. Great Finborough	421	383	1
5. Little Finborough	73	8	1
6. Gipping with Stowmarket	87	205	1
7. Harleston	89	102	1
8. Haughley	998	398	1
9. Old Newton with Dayworth	679	452	1
10. One-House	169	114	1
11. Shelland	126	97	1
12. Stowmarket	2,672	1,301	2
13. Stow Upland	826	406	1
14. Wetherden	487	374	1
15. Beyton, otherwise Beighton	330	248	1
16. Drinkstone	469	353	1
17. Felsham	401	675	1
18. Gidding	147	166	1
19. Kessett	428	650	1
20. Rattlesden	1,113	1,103	1
21. Thurston	462	406	1
22. Tostock	283	304	1
23. Woolpit	880	581	1
24. Ashfield Magna	408	245	1
25. Badwell Ash	490	550	1
26. Elmswell	694	517	1
27. Hunston	185	168	1
28. Norton	802	715	1
29. Stowlangtoft	204	175	1
30. Langham	264	421	1
31. Walsham-le-Willows	1,167	1,309	1
TOTALS	16,846	13,632	32

Declared to take place from and after 24th October 1835.

SUDBURY UNION:			
1. Town of Sudbury and Liberties thereof	4,677	1,773	4
2. Acton	565	817	1
3. Alpheton	309	292	1
4. Assington	641	704	1
5. Boxted	239	389	1
6. Bures, St. Mary	996	1,133	1
7. Cavendish	1,214	1,400	1
8. Chilton	108	123	1
9. Great Cornard	819	451	1
10. Little Cornard	345	443	1
11. Glemsford	1,470	1,381	1
12. Hartest	761	550	1
13. Lawshall	885	902	1
14. Long Melford	2,514	2,441	2
15. Nayland	1,047	602	1
16. Newton (near Sudbury)	432	529	1
17. Shimpling	496	596	1
18. Somerton	141	93	1
19. Stanstead	353	139	1
20. Stoke (near Nayland)	1,447	900	1
21. Great Waldingfield	679	870	1
22. Wiston, otherwise Wissington	249	416	1
23. Little Waldingfield	403	307	1
24. Hawkedon	328	450	1
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK:			
25. Buer's Hamlet		660	1
26. Lamarsh	323	535	1
27. Alphamstone	277	379	1
28. Twinstead	205	254	1
29. Great Henny	414	690	1
30. Little Henny	53	50	1
31. Middleton	103	224	1
32. Bulmer	706	744	1
33. Ballingdon	283	513	1
34. Belchamp Paul	808	952	1
35. Belchamp Walter	670	823	1
36. Belchamp Otten	397	480	1
37. Foxearth	727	474	1
38. Borley	195	168	1
39. Liston	88	224	1
40. Pentlowe	340	276	1
41. Wickham, St. Paul	388	235	1
42. Gestingthorpe	801	1,053	1
TOTALS	27,896	26,485	46

Declared to take place from and after 24th September 1835.

THINGOE UNION:			
1. Barrow	856	768	1
2. Brockley	319	365	1
3. Chevington	573	634	1
4. Flempton	188	51	1
5. Fornham, All Saints	310	291	1
6. Hargrave	394	369	1
7. Hawstead	414	254	1
8. Hengrave	238	240	1
9. Horningsheath	586	314	1
10. Ickworth	43	56	1
11. Lackford	193	94	1
12. Nowton	137	173	1
13. Reed	231	133	1
14. Risby	332	287	1
15. Saxham, Great	260	287	1
16. Saxham, Little	198	102	1
17. Westley	132	142	1
18. Whepstead	618	402	1
19. Chedburgh	295	98	1
20. Depden	329	319	1
21. Ampton	110	86	1
22. Barton, Great	778	659	1
23. Bradfield Combust	154	171	1
24. Bradfield-St. George	489	346	1
25. Bradfield-St. Clare	226	108	1
26. Fornham-St. Geneveve	73	46	1
27. Fornham-St. Martin	276	159	1
28. Livermore Magna	336	75	1
29. Pakenham	979	739	1
30. Rougham	1,113	1,103	1
31. Rushbrook	117	159	1
32. Stuningfield	306	199	1
33. Timworth	216	130	1
34. Welnetham, Great	422	300	1
35. Welnetham, Little	180	102	1

PARISHES UNITED. (Suffolk.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
Thingoe Union—*continued.*		£.	
36. Calford	327	280	1
37. Bardwell	799	1,130	1
38. Ingham	226	174	1
39. Ixworth	1,061	862	1
40. Livermere, Parva	185	164	1
41. Stanton, All Saints	1,035	792	1
42. Stow, West	266	132	1
43. Thorpe by Axworth	128	34	1
44. Troston	399	295	1
45. Wordwell	69	69	1
Totals	16,916	13,675	45

Declared to take place from and after 21st January 1836.

WOODBRIDGE UNION:			
1. Buckleshaw	274	373	1
2. Kirton	624	427	1
3. Felixstow	363	300	1
4. Hemley	69	111	1
5. Leomington	228	315	1
6. Falkenham	297	582	1
7. Nacton	555	408	1
8. Trimley-St. Martin	514	437	1
9. Trimley, St. Mary	401	474	1
10. Walton	387	590	1
11. Witnesham	562	510	1
12. Great Bealings	367	207	1
13. Little Bealings	272	171	1
14. Brightwell	86	177	1
15. Burgh	252	525	1
16. Clopton	468	- - -	1
17. Newbourn	176	110	1
18. Foxhall	190	221	1
19. Grundisburgh	835	698	1
20. Hasketon	517	538	1
21. Kesgrave	102	126	1
22. Martlesham	440	340	1
23. Culpho	64	190	1
24. Otley	616	856	1
25. Playford	299	206	1
26. Rushmere	568	449	1
27. Tuddenham	369	328	1
28. Waldringfield	166	130	1
29. Alderton	575	441	1
30. Bawdsey	454	289	1
31. Boulge	55	97	1
32. Boyton	247	290	1
33. Bredfield	466	530	1
34. Bromeswell	178	173	1
35. Capel, St. Andrew	190	127	1
36. Dallinghoo	354	359	1
37. Debach with Boulge	133	229	1
38. Hollesley	604	332	1
39. Melton	707	958	1
40. Petistree	276	331	1
41. Ramsholt	215	327	1
42. Shottisham	280	114	1
43. Sutton	680	708	1
44. Ufford	661	577	1
45. Charlsfield	558	397	1
46. Woodbridge	4,969	2,655	4
Totals	22,163	18,733	49

Declared to take place from and after the 3d October 1835.

COUNTY OF SURREY.

BERMONDSEY: Board of Guardians.			
1. Bermondsey, St. Mary Magdalen	29,741	16,861	18

Declared to take place from and after the 21st March 1836.

CHERTSEY UNION:			
1. Chertsey	4,795	2,982	4
2. Bisley	270	140	1
3. Byfleet	510	550	1
4. Chobham	1,937	1,162	2
5. Horsell	673	688	1
6. Pyrford	307	257	1
7. Windelsham and Bagshot	1,912	680	2
8. Weybridge	930	561	1
9. Walton-on-Thames	2,035	1,287	2
Totals	13,369	8,307	15

Declared to take place from and after 6th November 1835.

CROYDON UNION:			
1. Croydon	12,447	6,486	7
2. Addington	463	473	1
3. Coulsdon	630	480	1
4. Sanderstead	242	176	1
5. Woodmansterne	184	189	1
6. Beddington with Wallington	496 / 933	430	2
7. Mitcham	4,387	2,503	3
8. Mordon	655	507	1
9. Merton	1,447	695	2
10. Penge Ville, in Battersea parish	229	113	1
Totals	22,113	12,502	20

Declared to take effect from and after the 21st May 1836.

DORKING UNION:			
1. Dorking	4,711	3,015	4
2. Mickleham	709	411	2
3. Capel	915	984	2
4. Ockley	710	661	1
5. Wootton	651	268	1
6. Abinger	767	476	2
7. Newdigate	519	632	1
8. Effingham	565	320	1
Totals	9,547	6,767	14

Declared to take place from and after 10th June 1836.

EPSOM UNION:			
1. Epsom	3,231	1,796	3
2. Banstead	991	681	1
3. Ewell	1,630	1,063	2
4. Ashstead	607	580	1
5. Chessington	189	118	1
6. Cuddington	138	223	1
7. Fetcham	384	99	1
8. Leatherhead	1,724	1,115	2
9. Great Bookham	890	512	1
10. Little Bookham	191	91	1
11. Carshalton, otherwise Casehorton	1,919	1,605	2
12. Sutton	1,121	599	2
13. Cheam	997	790	1
14. Cobham	1,422	1,002	2
15. Stoke D'Abernon	289	236	1
Totals	15,723	10,510	22

Declared to take effect from and after the 31st May 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (SURREY.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1832,–33,–34.	Number of elected Guardians.
ST. GEORGE-THE-MARTYR, SOUTHWARK:			
Board of Guardians.		£.	
1. St. George-the-Martyr -	39,769	20,642	18

Declared to take effect from and after the 26th Oct. 1835.

ST. GILES, CAMBERWELL:			
Board of Guardians.			
1. St. Giles, Camberwell -	28,231	15,930	15

Declared to take effect from and after the 28th Oct. 1835.

GODSTONE UNION:		Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	
1. Bletchingly - - -	1,203	1,357	2
2. Crowhurst - - -	212	264	1
3. Godstone - - -	1,397	1,252	2
4. Horne - - -	395	629	1
5. Limpsfield - - -	1,042	537	2
6. Oxted - - -	959	625	2
7. Tandridge - - -	478	539	1
8. Catterham - - -	449	444	1
9. Chelsham - - -	279	191	1
10. Farleigh - - -	83	27	1
11. Tatsfield - - -	166	208	1
12. Titsey - - -	202	167	1
13. Warlingham - -	454	215	1
14. Woldingham - -	48	62	1
TOTALS - - -	7,367	6,517	18

Declared to take place from and after 31st Oct. 1835.

GUILDFORD UNION:			
1. Albury - - -	929	723	1
2. Shere - - -	1,190	1,495	1
3. East Clandon - -	281	68	1
4. West Clandon - -	389	184	1
5. East Horsley - -	389	190	1
6. West Horsley - -	702	447	1
7. Merrow - - -	249	181	1
8. Ockham - - -	590	535	1
9. Purbright - - -	594	507	1
10. Send and Ripley - -	1,483	1,614	1
11. Stoke - - - -	1,327	904	1
12. Wisley - - -	155	135	1
13. Woking - - -	1,975	2,305	2
14. Warplesdon - -	1,360	1,875	1
15. Wanborrow - -	111	73	1
16. Godalming - - -	4,529	4,698	3
17. Compton - - -	455	547	1
18. Artington - - -	511	939	1
19. St. Nicholas - Guildford.	840		1
20. St. Mary - Guildford.	1,549	674	2
21. Holy Trinity - Guildford.	1,529	586	2
TOTALS - - -	22,147	13,680	26

Declared to take place from and after 11th April 1836.

HAMBLEDON UNION:			
1. Hambledon - -	437	259	1
2. Chidingfold - -	1,095	1,434	1
3. Bramley - - -	842	996	1
4. Dunsfold - - -	567	633	1
5. Elstead - - -	711	438	1
6. Haslemere - - -	849	666	1
7. Shalford - - -	910	845	1
8. Hascomb - - -	317	195	1
9. St. Martha, Chilworth -	195	140	1
10. Thursley - - -	708	590	1
11. Whitley - - -	1,376	2,018	2
12. Wonersh - - -	1,069	1,490	1
13. Cranley - - -	1,320	1,406	2
14. Ewhurst - - -	828	766	1
15. Alfold - - -	514	469	1
16. Peper Harow - -	144	201	1
TOTALS - - -	11,882	12,546	18

Declared to take place from and after the 25th March 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (SURREY.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
KINGSTON UNION:		£.	
COUNTY OF SURREY:			
1. Kingston - - -	5,989	2,655	5
2. Ham with Hatch - -	1,079	758	1
3. Hook - - - -	189	89	1
4. Long Ditton - -	363	334	1
4. Talworth - - -	264		1
5. Thames Ditton - -	708	1,445	1
6. Esher - - - -	1,215	869	2
7. Moulsey, East - -	546	302	1
8. Moulsey, West - -	441	284	1
9. Wimbledon - -	2,195	1,883	2
10. Malden - - -	209	137	1
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX:			
11. Hampton Wick - -	1,463	617	2
12. Teddington - - -	895	661	1
13. Hampton - - -	2,529	1,246	3
TOTALS - - -	18,085	11,280	23

Declared to take place from and after 4th June 1836.

LAMBETH:			
Board of Guardians.			
1. Parish of Lambeth, including the district attached to the new churches of St. John, Waterloo, Kennington, Brixton, Norwood -	87,856	38,890	20

Declared to take place from and after the 28th Dec. 1835.

ST. MARY, NEWINGTON:			
Board of Guardians.			
1. Parish of St. Mary, Newington, including the hamlet of Walworth -	44,526	18,343	18

Declared to take place from and after 9th May 1836.

ST. MARY, ROTHERHITHE:			
Board of Guardians.			
1. St. Mary, Rotherhithe -	12,875	7,983	15

Declared to take place from and after the 15th Feb. 1836.

ST. OLAVE UNION:			
1. St. Olave - - -	8,694	4,783	6
2. St. Thomas - - -	1,456	795	2
3. St. John, Horsleydown -	9,871	5,039	7
TOTALS - - -	20,021	10,617	15

Declared to take place from and after the 1st Feb. 1836.

REIGATE UNION:			
1. Reigate, Borough -	1,419	884	3
2. Reigate, Foreign - -	1,978	1,331	3
3. Headley - - -	253	145	1
4. Horley - - -	1,164	872	2
5. Nutfield - - -	718	930	1
6. Merstham - - -	713	324	1
7. Chaldon - - -	173	116	1
8. Burstow - - -	736	665	1
9. Charlwood - - -	1,176	1,274	2
10. Leigh - - - -	483	488	1
11. Betchworth - -	1,100	1,047	2
12. Buckland - - -	344	358	1
13. Walton-on-the-Hill -	352	182	1
14. King's Wood Liberty -	221	108	1
15. Chipstead - - -	522	265	1
16. Gatton - - -	145	80	1
TOTALS - - -	11,497	9,069	23

Declared to take place from and after the 25th March 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (SURREY.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
RICHMOND UNION:		£.	
1. Richmond	7,243	2,682	5
2. Petersham	610	401	1
3. Kew	837	138	2
4. Mortlake	2,698	860	3
5. Barnes	1,417	590	2
TOTALS	12,805	4,671	13

Declared to take place from and after 6th June 1836.

ST. SAVIOUR'S UNION:			
1. St. Saviour's	18,006	11,797	9
2. Christchurch	13,705	6,159	8
TOTALS	31,711	17,956	17

Declared to take place from and after the 11th Feb. 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (SURREY.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
WANDSWORTH AND CLAPHAM UNION:		£.	
1. Wandsworth	6,879	4,098	4
2. Clapham	9,958	4,065	6
3. Putney	3,811	2,279	2
4. Streatham	5,068	2,482	2
5. Tooting Graveney	2,063	1,072	2
6. Battersea	5,311	2,523	3
TOTALS	33,090	16,519	19

Declared to take place from and after 25th March 1836.

COUNTY OF SUSSEX.

EAST GRINSTEAD UNION:			
COUNTY OF SUSSEX:			
1. East Grinstead	3,364	4,248	3
2. Hartfield	1,455	1,252	2
3. Withyham	1,610	1,410	2
4. Worth	1,859	2,413	2
5. West Hoathley	980	1,083	2
6. Crawley	394	149	1
COUNTY OF SURREY:			
7. Lingfield	1,814	1,498	2
TOTALS	11,476	12,053	14

Declared to take place from and after 23d September 1835.

HORSHAM UNION:			
1. Horsham	5,105	2,901	6
2. Slinfold	682	1,008	1
3. Shipley	1,180	3,304	2
4. Lower Beeding	531	430	1
5. Warnham	952	1,048	2
6. Rusper	531	591	1
7. Ifield	916	925	2
8. Itchingfield	356	639	1
9. West Grinstead	1,292	2,444	2
10. Nuthurst	725	778	1
TOTALS	12,270	14,068	19

Declared to take place from and after 14th September 1835.

PETWORTH UNION:			
1. Petworth	3,114	2,946	5
2. Kirdford	1,653	2,860	3
3. Wisborough Green	1,785	2,375	3
4. Billingshurst	1,540	2,302	3
5. Rudgwick	950	1,741	2
TOTALS	9,042	12,224	16

Declared to take place from and after 14th September 1835.

TICEHURST UNION:			
1. Ticehurst	2,314	1,168	3
2. Wadhurst	2,256	1,755	3
3. Salehurst	2,204	1,996	3
4. Frant	2,071	1,942	3
5. Burwash	1,966	1,822	2
6. Lamberhurst	1,521	1,456	2
7. Etchingham	666	394	1
8. Bodiham	349	382	1
TOTALS	13,347	10,915	18

Declared to take place from and after the 11th Sept. 1835.

COUNTY OF WARWICK.

		Average for the Years 1834,–35,–36.	
ALCESTER UNION:			
COUNTY OF WARWICK:			
1. Alcester	2,405	671	4
2. Alne, Great	343	174	1
3. Arrow	287	187	1
4. Aston Cantlow	940	428	1
5. Bidford	1,268	536	1
6. Coughton	316	186	1
7. Exhall	241	63	1
8. Haselor	349	134	1
9. Ipsley	830	363	1
10. Kinwarton	40	95	1
11. Moreton Baggott	170	82	1
12. Oversley	179	120	1
13. Salford	899	737	1
14. Sambourn	694	260	1
15. Spernhall	95	67	1
16. Studley	1,903	491	2
17. Weithley	62	34	1
18. Wexford	108	40	1

		Average for the Years 1834,–35,–36.	
ALCESTER UNION—*continued.*			
COUNTY OF WORCESTER:			
19. Abbotts Moreton	233	76	1
20. Feckenham	2,762	868	3
21. Inkberrow, or Inkborough	1,734	898	2
22. Oldberrow	65	83	1
TOTALS	15,923	6,593	29

Declared to take place from and after 31st May 1836.

		Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	
ATHERSTONE UNION:			
1. Atherstone	3,870	2,026	4
2. Ansley	773	448	1
3. Baddesley Ensor	568	243	1
4. Baxterley	189	126	1
5. Bentley	270	78	1
6. Grendon	577	306	1
7. Mancetter, or Mancester	341	214	1

PARISHES UNITED. (WARWICK.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
ATHERSTONE UNION—*continued.*		£.	
8. Merivale	246	265	1
9. Oldbury	80	12	1
10. Polesworth	1,870	934	2
COUNTY OF LEICESTER:			
11. Allerton	76	92	1
12. Fenny Drayton	127	163	1
13. Sheepy, Magna	415	329	1
14. Sheepy, Parva	87	96	1
TOTALS	9,489	5,332	18

Declared to take place from and after the 31st March 1836.

FOLESHILL UNION:		Average for the Years 1834,–35,–36.	
COUNTY OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY:			
1. Foleshill	6,969	3,125	5
2. Ansty	268	155	1
3. Exhall	840	614	2
4. Keresley	412	107	1
5. Stoke	848	223	2
6. Wyken	104	163	1
COUNTIES OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY AND WARWICK:			
7. Sow	1,414	565	2
COUNTY OF WARWICK:			
8. Binley	212	143	1
9. Shilton	460	266	1
10. Willenhall	120	93	1
11. Withybrook	318	167	1
TOTALS	11,965	5,621	18

Declared to take place from and after the 23d July 1836.

MERIDEN UNION:		Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	
1. Meriden	892	489	2
2. Allesley	875	525	2
3. Berkswell	1,450	841	2
4. Church Beckenhill	725	460	2
5. Coleshill	1,853	605	2
6. Corley	307	183	1
7. Coundon	192	100	1
8. Filloughley	981	602	2
9. Hampton in Arden	593	322	1
10. Kinwalsey	19	7	1
11. Lea Marston	269	175	1
12. Maxstoke	352	223	1
13. Great Packington	334	172	1
14. Little Packington	150	77	1
15. Sheldon	422	243	1
16. Shustoke	364	165	1
17. Over Whitacre	288	182	1
18. Nether Whitacre	415	280	1
TOTALS	10,481	5,651	24

Declared to take place from and after 29th March 1836.

NUNEATON UNION:			
1. Nuneaton	7,999	3,437	8
2. Arley	270	150	1
3. Astley	340	296	1
4. Bulkington	1,792	1,288	3
5. Caldecote	104	60	1
6. Chilvers-Coton	2,494	1,732	4
7. Weddington	69	138	1
TOTALS	13,068	7,101	19

Declared to take place from and after 6th April 1836.

RUGBY UNION:			
1. Rugby	2,501	389	3
2. Bilton	463	201	1
3. Birdingbury	212	58	1
4. Bourton	367	356	1

PARISHES UNITED. (WARWICK.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
RUGBY UNION—*continued.*		£.	
5. Brundon and Bretford	379	238	1
6. Brownsover	90	106	1
7. Churchover	295	131	1
8. Clifton-upon-Dunsmore	358	245	1
9. Combe, or Combe Fields	170	265	1
10. Cosford	63	23	1
11. Dunchurch	1,029	443	2
12. Frankton	261	218	1
13. Grandborough	528	564	1
14. Harborough, Magna	365	151	1
15. Hillmorton	873	664	1
16. Church Lawford	320	109	1
17. Little Lawford	28	25	1
18. Long Lawford	478	245	1
19. Leamington Hastings	464	233	1
20. Marton	311	152	1
21. Newbold-upon-Avon	494	355	1
22. Newnham Regis	139	69	1
23. Newton and Biggin	239	122	1
24. Princethorpe	Included in Stretton	65	1
25. Ryton-upon-Dunsmore	510	193	1
26. Stretton-upon-Dunsmore	317	321	1
27. Thurlaston	281	147	1
28. Willoughby	376	254	1
29. Wolfhampcote	372	477	1
30. Wolston	589	335	1
COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON:			
31. Barby with Olney	637	766	1
32. Clay Coton	83	105	1
33. Crick	945	1,226	2
34. Elkington	43	81	1
35. Kilsby	687	703	1
36. Lilbourn	274	307	1
37. Stanford	24	76	1
38. Yelvertoft	596	557	1
COUNTY OF LEICESTER:			
39. Westrill and Stromore	7	53	1
TOTALS	16,668	11,028	43

Declared to take place from and after 29th March 1836.

SOLIHULL UNION:		Average for the Years 1834,–35,–36.	
COUNTY OF WARWICK:			
1. Solihull	2,878	1,656	4
2. Temple Balsall	1,038	464	2
3. Baddesley Clinton	110	78	1
4. Barston	342	217	1
5. Elmdon	157	70	1
6. Knowle	1,120	655	2
7. Lapworth	656	271	1
8. Nuthurst	124	31	1
9. Packwood	319	177	1
10. Tanworth	2,201	968	3
COUNTY OF WORCESTER:			
11. Yardley	2,488	1,226	3
TOTALS	11,433	5,813	20

Declared to take place from and after 3d June 1836.

SOUTHAM UNION:		Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	
1. Southam	1,256	564	3
2. Burton Dassett	673	686	2
3. Chadshunt	45	20	1
4. Chesterton	188	319	1
5. Fenny Compton	565	587	1
6. Gaydon	213	126	1
7. Harbury, or Harberbury	997	630	2
8. Priors Hardwicke	296	290	1
9. Bishop's Itchington	421	420	1
10. Long Itchington	911	691	2
11. Ladbrooke	268	196	1
12. Lighthorne	346	188	1
13. Prior's Marston	655	617	2
14. Napton-on-the-Hill	833	698	2

PARISHES UNITED. (WARWICK.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
SOUTHAM UNION—*continued.*		£.	
15. Upper Shuckburgh	40	81	1
16. Lower Shuckburgh	165	96	1
17. Stockton	380	157	1
18. Ufton	166	117	1
19. Wormleighton	161	132	1
TOTALS	8,579	6,615	26

Declared to take place from and after the 30th April 1836.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON UNION:			
COUNTY OF WARWICK:			
1. Borough of Stratford-on-Avon	3,488	1,040	4
2. Old Stratford	1,556	961	2
3. Alveston	650	490	1
4. Atherstone-on-Stour	87	51	1
5. Bearley	230	53	1
6. Beaudesert	199	106	1
7. Billesley	24	5	1
8. Binton	277	93	1
9. Charlecote	297	164	1
10. Combroke	282	94	1
11. Compton Verney	56	25	1
12. Claverdon	487	303	1
13. Eatington	728	343	1
14. Fulbrook	77	76	1
15. Hampton Lucy, or Bishop's Hampton	540	309	1
16. Kineton	820	343	2
17. Langley	164	100	1
18. Loxley	290	202	1
19. Luddington	127	92	1
20. Moreton Morell	298	249	1
21. Newbold Pacy	341	160	1
22. Preston Baggott	221	167	1
23. Snitterfield	770	550	2
24. Temple Grafton	374	136	1
25. Wellesbourn Hastings	697	485	1
26. Wellesbourn Montford	660	332	1
27. Whitchurch	261	91	1
28. Wolverton	166	117	1
COUNTIES OF WARWICK AND GLOUCESTER:			
29. Wootton Wawen	2,270	1,055	3
30. Welford	669	304	1
31. Weston-on-Avon	108	94	1
COUNTY OF WORCESTER:			
32. Alderminster	454	233	1
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER:			
33. Clifford Chambers	336	247	1
34. Dorsington	122	77	1
35. Marston-Sicca	264	148	1
36. Preston-on-Stour	355	129	1
TOTALS	18,745	9,404	44

Declared to take place from and after the 30th May 1836.

TAMWORTH UNION:			
COUNTIES OF WARWICK AND STAFFORD:			
1. Tamworth	3,537	1,303	4
COUNTY OF WARWICK:			
2. Tamworth Castle (Liberty of)	66	10	1
3. Amington & Stony Delph	264	121	1
4. Anstrey	540	242	1
5. Bolehale and Glascote	421	173	1
6. Kingsbury	1,314	978	2
7. Middleton	550	344	1
8. Newton Regis, or Newton-in-the-Thistles	383	205	1
9. Seckington	129	38	1
10. Shuttington	147	84	1
11. Wilnecote	688	182	1
COUNTY OF STAFFORD:			
12. Clifton Campville	801	333	1
13. Drayton Bassett	459	284	1
14. Edingale	177	120	1
15. Fazeley	1,422	949	2
16. Harlaston	-	123	1
17. Hints	225	137	1
18. Statfold	41	13	1
19. Syerscourt	34	5	1
20. Thorpe Constantine	49	56	1
21. Wigginton	737	482	1
COUNTY OF DERBY:			
22. Chilcote	191	67	1
TOTALS	12,175	6,249	27

Declared to take place from and after 25th March 1836.

WARWICK UNION:		Average for the Years 1834,-35,-36.	
1. St. Mary's	6,678	2,739	4
2. St. Nicholas	2,431	1,200	2
3. Leamington Priors	6,209	827	4
4. Ashow	176	78	1
5. Baginton	257	159	1
6. Barford	748	257	1
7. Beansall	249	133	1
8. Bishop's Tachbrook and Tachbrook Mallory	674	483	1
9. Bubbenhall	233	65	1
10. Budbrooke	467	596	1
11. Cubbington	677	214	1
12. Eathorpe	145	41	1
13. Haseley	194	91	1
14. Hattan	302	149	1
15. Honily	60	48	1
16. Hanningham	212	119	1
17. Kenilworth	3,097	1,215	3
18. Leek Wootton	433	206	1
19. Lillington	274	139	1
20. Milverton	537	202	1
21. Norton Lindsey	141	78	1
22. Offchurch	350	223	1
23. Radford Lemele	478	309	1
24. Rowington	933	711	2
25. Sherborne	241	103	1
26. Shrewley	264	149	1
27. Stoneleigh	1,298	393	2
28. Wappenbury	107	47	1
29. Wasperton	292	230	1
30. Weston-under-Wetherley	208	117	1
31. Whitnash	260	130	1
32. Wroxall	181	115	1
33. Stivichall	103	155	1
34. Pinley	15	24	1
TOTALS	28,924	12,245	45

Declared to take place from and after 29th June 1836.

COUNTY OF WESTMORLAND.

KENDAL UNION:		Average for the Years 1834,-35,-36.	
1. Kendal	10,015	2,309	7
2. Ambleside	1,095	336	2
3. Applethwaite	429	276	1
KENDAL UNION—*continued.*			
4. Crosthwaite and Lyth	721	279	1
5. Dilicar	109	46	1
6. Docker	95	26	1

PARISHES UNITED. (WESTMORLAND.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1834,-35,-36.	Number of elected Guardians.
KENDAL UNION—*continued.*		£.	
7. Farleton	90	61	1
8. Fawcett Forrest	61	38	1
9. Grasmere	359	253	1
10. Grayrigg	242	124	1
11. Helsington	296	174	1
12. Hugill	367	122	1
13. Kentmere	191	61	1
14. Kirkland	1,250	317	2
15. Langdales	314	185	1
16. Lambrigg	176	106	1
17. Longsuddale	199	111	1
18. Lupton	282	291	1
19. Mansergh	232	134	1
20. Nether Graveship	312	33	1
21. Nether Staveley	190	81	1
22. New Hutton	177	82	1
23. Over Staveley	412	109	1
24. Patton	71	49	1
25. Preston Patrick	418	257	1
26. Preston Richard	395	260	1
27. Rydal and Loughrigg	315	193	1
28. Skelsmergh	263	134	1
29. Strickland Kettle	386	384	1
30. Strickland Roger	326	122	1
31. Troutbeck	349	89	1
32. Undermillbeck.	854	188	1
33. Whinfell	214	77	1
34. Whitwell and Selside	263	75	1
35. Beetham	855	498	1
36. Burton	733	414	1
37. Crook	246	99	1
38. Haverbrack	120	32	1
39. Hincaster	156	125	1
40. Holme	649	209	1
41. Levens	789	248	1
42. Meethop and Ulpha	86	110	1
43. Milnthorpe & Heversham	1,509	675	2
44. Natland	236	77	1
45. Sedgwick	204	106	1
46. Stainton	388	161	1
47. Scalthwaitrigg-Hay and Hutton'ith Hay	380	223	1
48. Underbarrow and Bradley-field	526	349	1
49. Witherslack	480	191	1
50. Barbon	318	115	1
51. Casterton	302	147	1
52. Firbank	241	145	1
53. Hutton Roof	351	140	1
54. Killington	302	208	1
55. Kirkby Lonsdale	1,686	591	2
56. Middleton	286	218	1
57. Old Hutton and Holmescales	429	275	1
TOTALS	32,740	12,728	67

Declared to take place from and after 15th July 1836.

COUNTY OF WILTS.

ALDERBURY UNION:		Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	
1. Alderbury	690	223	1
2. Britford	838	876	1
3. Clarendon Park	177	351	1
4. Coombe Bisset	358	194	1
5. Downton	3,652	3,641	4
6. Fisherton Anger	1,496	351	2
7. East Grimstead	122	100	1
8. West Grimstead	186	110	1
9. West Harnham	256	409	1
10. Homington	200	121	1
11. Landford	226	168	1
12. Laverstoke and Ford	342	321	1
13. Milford	523	408	1
14. Nunton and Bodenham	309	261	1
15. Odstock	148	23	1
16. Pitton and Farley	633	374	1
17. Salisbury	538	437	1
18. Standlinch	31	148	1
19. Stratford-under-the-Castle	374	721	1
20. Toney Stratford	125	100	1
21. White Parish	1,254	950	2
22. Winterslow	749	385	1
TOTALS	13,227	10,672	27

Declared to take place from and after 12th October 1835.

AMESBURY UNION:			
1. Allington	80	65	1
2. Amesbury	944	581	2
3. Boscombe	148	132	1
4. Bulford	290	172	1
5. Cholderton	161	74	1
6. Durnford	481	388	1
7. Durrington	467	361	1
8. Figheldean	531	368	1
9. Idmiston	520	196	1
10. Maddington	381	242	1
11. Milston	107	75	1
12. Newton Toney	268	172	1
13. Orcheston, St. George	219	51	1
14. Orcheston, St. Mary	134	94	1
15. Rolleston	39	60	1
16. Shrewton	491	312	1
17. Tilshead	465	244	1
18. Wilsford-cum-Lake	119	52	1
19. Winterborne Stoke	272	169	1
20. Winterborne Dantsey	161	82	1
21. Winterborne Earls	243	163	1
22. Winterborne Gunner	166	52	1
23. Woodford	397	340	1
TOTALS	7,084	4,445	24

Declared to take place from and after 9th October 1835.

CHIPPENHAM UNION:			
1. Avon	26	5	1
2. Biddestone, St. Nicholas	423	137	1
3. Biddestone, St. Peter	31	7	1
4. Box	1,550	754	2
5. Castle Combe	655	323	1
6. Chippenham	4,333	2,250	5
7. Christian Malford	980	666	1
8. Colerne	931	554	1
9. Corsham	2,952	1,638	3
10. Ditteridge	83	37	1
11. Draycot Cerne	180	114	1
12. Grittleton	438	262	1
13. Hardenhuish	116	68	1
14. Kington, Langley	560	342	1
15. Kington, St. Michael	531	410	1
16. Lacock	1,640	2,293	2
17. Langley Burrell	438	460	1
18. Leigh Delamere	129	52	1
19. Littleton Drew	177	52	1
20. Nettleton	448	233	1
21. North Wraxhall	415	262	1
22. Pewsham	383	267	1
23. Seagry	234	234	1
24. Slaughterford	115	55	1
25. Stanton, St. Quintin	317	201	1
26. Sutton Benger	443	377	1
27. Tytherton Kelways	20	29	1
28. West Kington	298	123	1
29. Yatton Keynell	419	284	1
TOTALS	19,265	12,489	37

Declared to take place from and after the 1st December 1835.

PARISHES UNITED. (WILTS.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
CRICKLADE AND WOOTTON BASSETT UNION:		£.	
1. Ashton Haynes	915	1,002	1
2. Braydon, Tything	64	71	1
3. Cricklade, St. Mary	445	274	1
4. Cricklade, St. Sampson	1,197	1,815	2
5. Clyffe Pypard	885	1,069	1
6. Eisey	167	252	1
7. Lyneham	1,030	1,553	1
8. Lydiard-Tregooze	765	1,484	1
9. Lydiard-Mellicent	406	360	1
10. Lutton	360	197	1
11. Purton	1,714	1,554	2
12. The Leigh	267	459	1
13. Tockenham	164	152	1
14. Wootton Bassett	1,896	1,706	2
TOTALS	10,275	11,948	17

Declared to take effect from and after 24th November 1835.

DEVIZES UNION:			
1. Allcannings	649	494	1
2. Allington	162	143	1
3. Alton Barnes	138	83	1
4. Beechingstoke	187	188	1
5. Bishops Cannings	1,365	1,354	2
6. Bromham	1,556	1,178	2
7. Chirton	409	414	1
8. Chittoe	220	170	1
9. Devizes, St. John	1,973	1,181	2
10. Devizes, St. Mary	2,589	943	3
11. Easterton	417	472	1
12. Earl Stoke	420	350	1
13. Etchilhampton	270	127	1
14. Great Cheverell	576	644	1
15. Little Cheverell	259	130	1
16. Marden	205	161	1
17. Market Lavington	1,108	718	1
18. Marston	175	163	1
19. Patney	144	85	1
20. Poulshot	348	177	1
21. Potterne	1,170	1,173	1
22. Rowde	1,016	869	1
23. Stanton, St. Bernard	319	167	1
24. Stert	185	40	1
25. St. James	1,765	1,285	2
26. Urchfont	1,389	1,958	2
27. West Lavington	1,322	1,111	2
28. Worton	302	226	1
TOTALS	28,638	16,004	36

Declared to take place from and after 3d November 1835.

HIGHWORTH AND SWINDON UNION:			
1. Bishopstone	688	520	1
2. Blunsden, St. Andrew	73	135	1
3. Castle Eaton	302	294	1
4. Chiseldon	1,148	1,063	2
5. Draycot Foliat	19	53	1
6. Hamington	415	370	1
7. Highworth	3,127	2,543	3
8. Hinton Parva	310	138	1
9. Inglesham	133	62	1
10. Lyddington	407	600	1
11. Rodbourne Cheney	574	446	1
12. Stanton Fitzwarren	188	446	1
13. Stratton, St. Margaret	924	570	1
14. Swindon	1,742	1,691	2
15. Wanborough	1,016	1,097	1
16. Wroughton	1,545	1,359	2
TOTALS	12,611	11,387	21

Declared to take place from and after the 23d November 1835.

MALMESBURY UNION:			
1. Alderton	213	128	1
2. Bremilham	33	31	1
3. Brinkworth	1,417	1,728	2

595.

PARISHES UNITED. (WILTS.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
MALMESBURY UNION—*continued.*		£.	
4. Brockenborough	283	256	1
5. Charlton	695	475	1
6. Crudwell	604	542	1
7. Dauntsey	561	257	1
8. Easton Grey	151	74	1
9. Foxley	67	45	1
10. Garsden	234	114	1
11. Hankerton	413	325	1
12. Hullavington	563	270	1
13. Luckington	275	387	1
14. Malmesbury Abbey	124	51	1
15. Ditto, St. Mary, Westport	1,286	408	2
16. Ditto, St. Paul	2,169	1,055	3
17. Minty (part in Gloucestershire, part in Wiltshire)	585	431	1
18. Norton	113	82	1
19. Oaksey	494	218	1
20. Shurston Magna	1,361	734	2
21. Shurston Pinckney	122	131	1
22. Somerford, Great	500	353	1
23. Somerford, Little	376	215	1
24. Sopworth	222	109	1
25. The Lea	419	301	1
TOTALS	13,280	8,720	30

Declared to take place from and after 4th December 1835.

MARLBOROUGH UNION:			
1. Avebury	747	444	1
2. Berwick Basset	164	97	1
3. Broad Hinton	684	713	1
4. East Kennet	103	36	1
5. Fifield	157	59	1
6. Mildenhall	427	287	1
7. Marlborough, St. Mary	1,849	550	2
8. Marlborough, St. Peter and St. Paul	1,577	645	2
9. Ogbourne, St. Andrew	489	352	1
10. Ogbourne, St. George	548	489	1
11. Preshute	760	797	1
13. West Overton	718	487	1
13. Winterbourne Basset	288	150	1
14. Winterbourne Monkton	263	144	1
TOTALS	8,774	5,250	16

Declared to take place from and after 24th November 1835.

MELKSHAM UNION:			
1. Melksham	4,722	4,188	6
3. Hilperton	1,067	388	2
3. Seend	1,144	914	2
4. Semington	398	262	1
5. Trowbridge	10,863	4,776	8
6. Whaddon	58	38	1
TOTALS	18,252	10,566	20

Declared to take place from and after 2d November 1835.

MERE UNION:			
COUNTY OF WILTS:			
1. Mere	2,708	1,738	3
2. Kingston Deverill	380	201	1
3. East Knoyle	1,028	768	2
4. West Knoyle	206	122	1
5. Monkton Deverill	204	104	1
6. Pertwood	29	11	1
7. Sedgehill	235	146	1
COUNTY OF DORSET:			
8. Bourton	810	331	1
9. Silton	396	244	1

4 B 4 (*continued*)

PARISHES UNITED. (WILTS.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
MERE UNION—*continued.*			
COUNTY OF SOMERSET:			
10. Kilmington	580	538	1
11. Maiden Bradley (Wilts) with Yarnfield (Somerst.)	568	577	1
12. Stourton (Wilts) with Gaspar (Somerset.)	350	489	1
TOTALS	7,494	5,269	15

Declared to take place from and after 14th October 1835.

PEWSEY UNION:			
1. Alton Priors	205	115	1
3. Burbage	1,448	657	2
3. Charlton	183	164	1
4. Collingbourn Ducis	458	409	1
5. Collingbourn Kingston	913	1,287	1
6. Easton	488	297	1
7. Enford	961	637	1
8. Everley	352	231	1
9. Fittleton	331	186	1
10. Hewish	128	28	1
11. Manningford Abbots	165	117	1
12. Manningford Bohun	242	186	1
13. Manningford Bruce	261	171	1
14. Milton Lilbourne	660	487	1
15. Netherhaven	508	333	1
16. Newnton, North	317	335	1
17. Pewsey	1,588	1,167	2
18. Rushall	244	143	1
19. Uphaven	498	373	1
20. Wilcot	677	432	1
21. Wilsford	270	246	1
22. Woodborough	372	136	1
23. Wootton Rivers	405	278	1
TOTALS	11,674	8,415	25

Declared to take place from and after 8th December 1835.

TISBURY UNION:			
1. Alvedeston	239	130	1
2. Ansty	348	225	1
3. Berwick, St. John	425	479	1
4. Berwick, St. Leonard	51	16	1
5. Chicklade	127	125	1
6. Chilmark	507	284	1
7. Donhead, St. Andrew	304	845	1
8. Donhead, St. Mary	1,520	1,430	2
9. Fonthill Bishop	211	117	1
10. Fonthill Gifford	442	387	1
11. Hindon Free Royal	921	652	1
12. Semley	700	669	1
13. Sutton Mandeville	256	100	1
14. Swallowcliffe	278	138	1
15. Tollard Royal	286	103	1
16. Teffont Evias	176	34	1
17. Teffont Magna	213	137	1
18. Tisbury, East	821	861	1
19. Tisbury, West	895	950	1
20. Wardour	548	585	1
TOTALS	9,763	8,267	21

Declared to take place from and after 4th October 1835.

PARISHES UNITED. (WILTS.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
WARMINSTER UNION:		£.	
1. Bishopstrow	278	303	1
2. Boyton	382	237	1
3. Brixton Deverill	197	107	1
4. Chittern, All Saints	382	288	1
5. Chittern, St. Mary	183	91	1
6. Codford, St. Mary	287	191	1
7. Codford, St. Peter	387	397	1
8. Corsley	1,729	1,130	2
9. Heytesbury	1,412	1,249	2
10. Hill Deverill	129	115	1
11. Horningshaw	1,323	987	2
12. Imber	404	489	1
13. Knook	282	221	1
14. Longbridge Deverill	1,307	754	2
15. Norton Bavant	279	292	1
16. Sherrington	179	122	1
17. Stockton	274	105	1
18. Tytherington	132	310	1
19. Sutton Veney	848	907	1
20. Upton Lovell	249	192	1
21. Upton Scudamore	392	263	1
22. Warminster	6,115	4,271	6
TOTALS	17,150	12,971	31

Declared to take place from and after 2d November 1835.

WESTBURY AND WHORWELLSDOWN UNION:			
1. Westbury	7,324	5,298	5
2. Bulkington	249	167	1
3. Coulston, East	103	77	1
4. Edington	1,112	1,003	2
5. Hinton	234	61	1
6. Keevil	443	280	1
7. North Bradley	1,025	1,016	2
8. Southwick	1,452	1,176	2
9. Steeple Ashton	848	372	1
10. West Ashton	374	269	1
TOTALS	13,164	9,719	17

Declared to take place from and after 14th November 1835.

WILTON UNION:			
1. Berwick, St. James	232	106	1
2. Barford, St. Martin's	570	490	1
3. Baverstock	166	148	1
4. Bishopstone	663	906	1
5. Bower Chalk	370	295	1
6. Broad Chalk	796	571	1
7. Burcombe	419	183	1
8. Compton Chamberlayne	309	264	1
9. Dinton	536	263	1
10. Ebbesborne Wake	278	134	1
11. Fifield Brabant	49	21	1
12. Fisherton Delamere	309	92	1
13. Fovant	553	381	1
14. Fugglestone, St. Peter	515	447	1
15. Langford, Little	39	8	1
16. Langford Steeple	587	396	1
17. Netherhampton	143	142	1
18. Newton, South	565	591	1
19. Stapleford	337	253	1
20. Wilton	1,997	2,561	3
21. Wisford, Great	361	242	1
22. Wiley	476	317	1
TOTALS	10,270	8,811	24

Declared to take place from and after 13th October 1836.

COUNTY OF WORCESTER.

EVESHAM UNION:			
COUNTY OF WORCESTER:			
1 St. Lawrence (Evesham.)	3,991	619	2
2 All Saints (Evesham.)		607	2
3. St. Peter's (Evesham.)		361	1
4. Church Lynch	229	69	1
EVESHAM UNION—*continued.*			
5. Rouse Lynch	251	148	1
6. Hob Lynch	116	62	1
7. Hatch Lynch	82	79	1
8. Sheriff's Lynch	88	124	1

PARISHES UNITED. (WORCESTER.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
EVESHAM UNION—*continued.*		£.	
9. Norton and Lynch Wick	397	258	1
10. Harvington	318	188	1
11. Cleve Prior	368	192	1
12. South Littleton	110	64	1
13. North and Mid Littleton	360	206	1
14. Offenham	360	146	1
15. Bretforton	423	136	1
16. Badsey	359	148	1
17. Aldington	104	51	1
18. Wickamford	136	36	1
19. Great and Little Hampton	290	160	1
20. Sedgbarrow	224	85	1
21. Broadway	1,517	806	2
22. Church Honeybourn	108	93	1
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER:			
23. Hinton	209	119	1
24. Aston Somerville	103	75	1
25. Childs Wickham	415	300	1
26. Ashton Underhill	182	137	1
27. Aston Sub-Edge	103	36	1
28. Weston Sub-Edge	367	284	1
29. Willersey	327	100	1
30. Saintbury	123	74	1
31. Cow Honeybourn	329	169	1
32. Pebworth	578	346	1
TOTALS	12,567	6,278	35

Declared to take place from and after 7th April 1836.

PERSHORE UNION:			
1. St. Andrew in Pershore	964	246	2
2. Pinvin	179	96	1
3. Bricklehampton	156	61	1
4. Defford	383	236	1
5. Besford	146	99	1
6. Wick	280	146	1
7. Pensham	118	172	1
8. Holy Cross in Pershore, including the hamlets of Walcot and Wadborough	2,145	873	3
9. Naunton Beauchamp	149	89	1
10. Peopleton	276	102	1
11. White Ladies Aston	381	169	1
12. Churchill	161	82	1
13. Broughton Hackett	153	58	1
14. Upton Snodsbury	316	120	1
15. Grafton Flyford	242	84	1
16. North Piddle	119	76	1
17. Flyford Flavell	154	47	1
18. Birlingham	360	155	1
19. Pirton	214	158	1
20. Strensham	328	279	1
21. Eckington	700	260	1
22. Great Comberton	229	121	1
23. Little Comberton	219	67	1
24. Elmley Castle	333	174	1
25. Stoulton	312	208	1
26. Fladbury	417	218	1
27. Wyre Piddle	175	73	1
28. Hill and Moor	304	172	1
29. Throckmorton	159	119	1
30. Bishampton	393	167	1
31. Abberton	90	110	1
32. Kington	153	54	1
33. Cropthorne	285	125	1
34. Charlton	276	138	1
35. Netherton	129	83	1
36. Dormestone	157	71	1
*37. Norton-juxta-Kempsey	560	175	1
*38. Whittington	279	75	1
*39. Spetchley	117	134	1
*40. Bredicot	52	25	1
TOTALS	12,563	5,917	43

Declared to take place from and after 14th October 1835.

* The averages on these four parishes are estimated on the years 1834, 1835 and 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (WORCESTER.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,–34,–35.	Number of elected Guardians.
SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR UNION:			
COUNTY OF WORCESTER:		£.	
1. Shipston-on-Stour	1,632	997	2
2. Tredington	1,036	935	2
3. Tidmington	76	60	1
4. Blockley	2,015	1,173	2
COUNTY OF WARWICK:			
5. Barcheston	198	211	1
6. Honington	341	300	1
7. Idlicote	82	64	1
8. Whatcote	219	142	1
9. Halford	315	127	1
10. Brailes	1,272	873	2
11. Burmington	205	160	1
12. Whichford	441	272	1
13. Stourton	197	134	1
14. Cherrington	328	204	1
15. Great Woolford	300	213	1
16. Little Woolford	280	231	1
17. Ilmington	836	673	1
18. Stretton-on-Fosse	455	224	1
19. Compton Wyniate	23	59	1
20. Oxhill	326	306	1
21. Pillerton Priors	217	155	1
22. Pillerton Hersey	261	130	1
23. Butlers Marston	332	188	1
24. Church Tysoe	1,007	990	2
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER:			
25. Sutton	239	155	1
26. Todenham	481	290	1
27. Lemington	56	46	1
28. Chipping Campden	2,008	1,337	2
29. Ebrington	573	416	1
30. Mickleton	679	430	1
31. Hidcot Bartram		55	1
32. Quenton	609	356	1
33. Admington		87	1
34. Moreton-in-Marsh	1,331	482	2
35. Batsford	107	154	1
36. Bourton-on-Hill	553	281	1
COUNTY OF WARWICK:			
37. Clopton	-	62	1
TOTALS	19,030	12,972	44

Declared to take place from and after 8th February 1836.

		Average for the Years 1834,–35,–36.	
TENBURY UNION:			
COUNTY OF WORCESTER:			
1. Tenbury	1,768	697	3
2. Bockleton	294	192	1
3. Eastham	342	171	1
4. Hanley, Child	210	45	1
5. Hanley, William	141	85	1
6. Great Kyre	159	69	1
7. Little Kyre	198	42	1
8. Orleton	119	7	1
9. Knighton-on-Teme with Newnham	553	184	1
10. Lindridge	678	268	1
COUNTY OF SALOP:			
11. Burford	1,010	130	2
12. Burraston and Watmore		84	1
13. Nash Weston and Tilsop	included in Burford.	168	1
14. Greet	93	88	1
15. Whitton	76	54	1
COUNTY OF HEREFORD:			
16. Brimfield	581	224	1
17. Little Hereford and Upton	477	263	1
18. Rochford	235	84	1
19. Stoke Bliss	175	90	1
TOTALS	7,109	2,945	22

Declared to take place from and after the 27th August 1836.

PARISHES UNITED. (WORCESTER.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
UPTON-UPON-SEVERN UNION:		£.	
1. Upton-upon-Severn	2,343	820	3
2. Birtsmorton	311	254	1
3. Castlemorton	879	359	1
4. Eldersfield	789	610	1
5. Hanley Castle	1,653	1,139	2
6. Longdon	612	481	1
7. Madresfield	191	75	1
8. Malvern, Great	2,010	623	2
9. Newland, Chapelry	130	75	1
10. Severn Stoke	745	347	1
11. Berrow	507	317	1
12. Croome D'Abitot	144	126	1
13. Earls Croome	192	110	1
14. Hill Croome	215	121	1
15. Malvern, Little	88	55	1
16. Welland	490	207	1
17. Kempsey	1,314	656	2
18. Ripple	779	249	1
19. Holdfast, Hamlet	86	80	1
20. Queenhill, Chapelry	107	78	1
21. Powick	1,598	754	2
22. Bushley	313	155	1
TOTALS	15,496	7,691	28

Declared to take place from and after 16th November 1835.

WALES.

COUNTY OF CARMARTHEN.

PARISHES UNITED. (CARMARTHEN.)	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
CARMARTHEN UNION:		£.	
1. Carmarthen	9,995	4,026	4
2. Treleach-ar-Bettws	1,567	475	1
3. Mydrim	983	447	1
4. Llanstephan	1,274	684	1
5. Llanllawddog	770	224	1
6. Llanpumpsaint	548	216	1
7. Cynwyl-in-Elfet, chapelry	1,566	538	1
8. Llanarthney	1,839	694	1
9. Llandefaelog	1,278	426	1
10. Llangendeyrne	2,412	788	1
11. Llanddarog	1,037	338	1
12. Llangunnoch	859	277	1
13. Llangain	423	225	1
14. St. Clears	1,083	317	1
15. St. Ishmael	944	377	1
16. Llandilo Abercowin	90	22	1
17. Llangynon	1,041	361	1
18. Abernant	664	251	1
19. Merthyr	246	150	1
20. Abergwilly	2,675	1,389	2
21. Newchurch	659	505	1
22. Llanvihangel Abercowin	864	299	1
23. Llangharne	597	317	1
24. Llangharne, township	1,423	573	1
25. Llandawk	19	4	1
26. Llansadurnen	234	113	1
27. Llandowror	420	112	1
28. Llangynnin	434	135	1
TOTALS	35,944	14,283	32

Declared to take place from and after 2d July 1836.

COUNTY OF GLAMORGAN.

NEATH UNION: COUNTY OF GLAMORGAN.	Population in 1831.	Expended on Poor. Average for the Years 1833,-34,-35.	Number of elected Guardians.
1. Blaerhonnda	1,029	533	1
2. Coedfrank	825	283	1
3. Neath, Higher	617	168	1
4. Neath, Middle	271	241	1
5. Neath, Lower	185	98	1
6. Dylais, Upper	299	142	1
7. Dylais, Lower	197	156	1
8. Duffryn Clydach	936	358	1
9. Ynisymond	177	65	1
10. Llantwit, Lower	727	271	1
11. Clyne	129	65	1
12. Resolvend	261	74	1
13. Michaelstone, super Afon Upper	257	61	1
14. Michaelstone, super Afon, Lower	793	38	1
15. Baglan, Higher	58	61	1
16. Baglan, Lower	352	124	1
17. Glyncorwg	133	37	1
18. Blaengwrach	414	138	1
19. Llansamlet, Higher	1,076	431	1
20. Llansamlet, Lower	2,111	549	2
21. Kilybebill	398	114	1
22. Llanguick	1,847	416	1
23. Aberafon	573	86	1
24. Britonferry	416	182	1
25. Margam	2,902	983	2
26. Neath, parish and town	4,043	898	3
COUNTY OF BRECON:			
27. Ystradgynlais, Higher	1,482	159	1
28. Ystradgynlais, Lower		296	1
29. Ystradfeltè	760	376	1
TOTALS	23,768	7,403	33

Declared to take place from and after 2d September 1836.

[NOTE.—*The following Tables, Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, are made up from transcripts of the Totals of the Quarterly Abstracts of the Accounts of the several Unions. Some unavoidable differences have arisen in the entries made on the first introduction of the Accounts, especially in the specification of the several classes of paupers relieved, some paupers being relieved and entered under different classes twice within the same quarter. These differences, it is apprehended, render the first Accounts as to the several classes of paupers, only an approximation to accuracy. The Tables inserted in the Report, p. 32, should be entitled, the first a "Summary of Returns from Unions which have been in operation an Average Period of Ten Months; the second, "an Average Period of nearly Five Months."*

—No. 7.—

TABLE, showing the Number of PAUPERS RELIEVED in 109 Unions, during the Quarter ended Christmas 1835, which Unions have been in Operation an Average Period of Seven Months.

COUNTIES.	Aged and Infirm of both Sexes.			Orphan and Foundling Children.		Illegitimate Children.		Insane Persons and Lunatics.			Idiots.		ABLE-BODIED.										Names of the other Classes not included in the preceding.			Total Number of Poor receiving Relief.		TOTAL
		Out-door.											Alleged Insufficiency of Earnings.		Who had lost Work or Place.		On account of Temporary Sickness.		Whose Families were relieved on account of Sickness.		Families relieved on account of the Number.		Families destitute on account of Misconduct of Parents.							
	In-door.	Resident.	Non-Resident.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In Lunatic Asylum or elsewhere.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	—	—	—	In-door.	Out-door.	
Bedford	255	2,275	192	84	245	35	323	8	9	11	33	49	50	1,007	121	616	29	511	11	142	17	255	40	74	21	44	17	682	5,792	6,474
Northampton	87	1,410	103	21	67	6	191	1	22	2	2	29	25	346	6	209	1	61	–	110	–	99	22	12	224	24	–	209	5,143	5,352
Buckingham	45	683	115	22	90	29	151	–	3	2	–	15	19	87	31	273	7	125	–	26	–	21	11	21	11	2	–	295	2,407	2,702
Oxford	80	1,384	133	35	155	42	224	2	7	13	16	48	28	503	5	87	15	172	–	92	–	75	9	28	–	–	–	248	2,924	3,172
Kent	634	2,375	1,024	117	455	67	646	21	13	7	36	64	161	2,599	162	500	35	759	10	315	5	518	112	90	1767	2235	539	1,462	13755	15,217
Sussex	1,172	2,599	856	237	366	242	543	11	23	19	63	79	236	607	304	477	45	530	16	425	184	2,713	48	93	301	78	47	2,199	10022	12,221
Suffolk	67	864	255	15	158	5	284	4	6	7	4	30	3	344	70	540	5	129	1	49	2	120	10	30	93	24	23	187	2,955	3,142
Middlesex	63	86	26	26	4	10	9	1	–	11	3	–	6	7	8	–	8	96	–	–	–	3	6	2	–	1	–	131	245	376
Berks	374	2,968	227	61	235	48	593	5	33	22	12	62	15	264	28	403	32	415	–	203	11	481	24	65	817	91	118	923	7,555	8,478
Wilts	74	670	136	25	66	29	88	4	2	1	14	6	22	110	14	139	24	100	–	9	41	147	26	32	55	2	3	284	1,565	1,849
Hertford	536	1,617	259	125	219	48	139	6	10	30	40	46	32	376	77	96	80	277	7	178	14	266	64	67	39	43	14	1,062	3,635	4,697
Hampshire	653	4,693	728	310	858	105	972	17	24	57	83	126	135	1,178	175	1,008	47	1,048	16	365	83	944	62	153	463	684	17	1,708	13378	15,086
Gloucester	49	210	40	21	22	7	81	10	7	10	10	4	5	49	–	–	3	22	1	31	2	43	1	11	2	3	2	109	547	656
Cambridge	38	1,005	173	7	137	8	169	4	7	1	4	32	2	196	15	157	–	212	2	27	–	109	13	35	168	5	6	93	2,439	2,532
Essex	13	682	45	10	42	16	127	1	2	2	–	8	16	131	101	49	–	68	–	55	1	1	1	9	–	–	–	259	1,985	2,244
Norfolk	–	677	67	–	63	–	78	–	–	7	–	6	–	1,022	–	–	–	1	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	1111	–	3,034	3,034
TOTALS	4,140	24198	4,379	1,116	3,182	697	4618	95	168	212	320	604	755	8,826	1,117	4,554	331	4,536	64	2,029	360	5.795	449	722	3961	3236	1897	9,851	77381	87,232
	32,717			4,298		5,315		475			924		9,581		5,671		4,867		2,093		6,155		1,171		9,094			87,232		

—No. 8.—

TABLE *, showing the Number of PAUPERS RELIEVED in 109 Unions, during the Quarter ended 25 March 1836, which Unions have been in operation an Average Period of Ten Months.

COUNTIES.	Aged and Infirm of both Sexes.			Orphan and Foundling Children.		Illegitimate Children.		Insane Persons and Lunatics.			Idiots.		ABLE-BODIED.												Names of the other Classes not included in the preceding.			Total Number of Poor receiving Relief.		TOTAL.
		Out-door.											Alleged Insufficiency of Earnings.		Who had lost Work or Place.		On account of Temporary Sickness.		Whose Families were Relieved on account of Sickness.		Families Relieved on account of the Number.		Families Destitute on account of Misconduct of Parents.							
	In-door.	Resident.	Non-Resident.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In Lunatic Asylum, or elsewhere.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	—	—	—	In-door.	Out-door.	
Bedford -	247	2,103	237	67	215	43	306	8	6	10	37	53	109	981	156	633	25	722	11	131	128	448	104	80	10	43	10	941	6,037	6,978
Northampton	116	1,467	166	29	120	16	269	2	16	1	8	46	37	522	20	74	–	246	–	115	5	112	35	48	–	111	–	291	4,979	5,270
Bucks - -	64	665	106	12	78	21	130	1	5	2	3	8	30	162	1	127	9	147	–	58	–	29	20	18	8	3	2	874	4,380	5,254
Oxford -	95	1,330	144	45	174	64	250	4	16	16	22	43	49	632	8	101	22	239	–	93	–	67	16	45	–	–	–	325	3,149	3,474
Kent - -	690	2,110	1,014	183	434	101	509	25	21	11	40	50	155	2,454	194	340	97	1,178	32	197	60	486	87	73	629	846	1894	2,044	14335	16,379
Sussex -	666	2,601	981	270	315	272	567	15	32	36	79	66	478	660	432	583	48	700	40	354	114	2,176	172	129	350	151	93	2,848	10181	13,029
Suffolk -	174	1,227	500	47	198	23	316	6	16	13	7	40	48	419	148	975	8	260	6	132	16	281	3	26	60	156	122	655	6,877	7,532
Middlesex -	40	88	7	12	7	10	1	1	–	9	3	1	31	55	1	–	13	136	20	14	–	–	1	8	1	–	–	133	318	451
Berks - -	487	3,729	397	166	323	132	608	9	42	25	33	71	166	539	168	591	55	939	33	701	11	775	56	142	159	195	370	1,501	9,384	10,885
Wilts - -	35	395	83	9	12	18	4	4	–	2	4	–	38	177	7	3	13	20	2	8	10	18	5	4	–	10	–	286	1,515	1,801
Herts - -	679	2,365	358	255	278	61	183	13	7	34	57	54	38	269	194	72	75	581	17	250	36	293	43	43	78	46	70	1,594	5,193	6,787
Hants -	613	4,591	897	271	871	202	1035	25	12	59	87	120	184	1,148	186	1,179	81	1,600	22	307	146	788	108	193	259	714	24	2,043	13686	15,729
Gloucester -	50	199	57	12	18	13	78	7	3	8	7	2	1	36	–	2	5	46	2	24	3	53	5	16	2	7	–	113	543	656
Cambridge -	24	1,070	158	1	181	9	173	3	14	1	7	24	53	179	48	181	2	269	–	64	3	99	6	48	154	7	19	157	2,640	2,797
Essex - -	245	1,904	275	61	254	26	278	3	5	7	12	51	92	565	187	217	20	945	–	181	5	142	33	54	100	48	1	768	4,934	5,702
Norfolk -	–	987	163	–	100	–	158	–	1	9	–	17	–	1,337	–	44	–	85	–	2	–	32	–	33	–	–	1084	–	4,052	4,052
TOTALS - -	4,225	26831	5,543	1,440	3,578	1011	4865	126	196	243	406	646	1,509	10135	1,750	5,122	473	8,113	185	2,631	537	5,799	694	960	1810	2337	3689	14573	92203	106776
	36,599			5,018		5,876		565			1,052		11,644		6,872		8,586		2,816		6,336		1,654		7,836			106,776		

* *See* Note in p. 563.

— No. 9. —

TABLE *, showing the Number of PAUPERS RELIEVED, during the Quarter ended 25 March 1836, in 64 Unions, that have been in operation an Average Period of Nearly Five Months.

COUNTIES.	Aged and Infirm of both Sexes.			Orphan and Foundling Children.		Illegitimate Children.		Insane Persons and Lunatics.			Idiots.		ABLE-BODIED.										Names of the other Classes not included in the preceding.			Total Number of Poor receiving Relief.		TOTAL.
		Out-door.											Alleged Insufficiency of Earnings.		Who had lost Work or Place.		On account of Temporary Sickness.		Whose Families were relieved on account of Sickness.		Families relieved on account of the Number.		Families destitute on account of Misconduct of Parents.							
	In-door.	Resident.	Non-Resident.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In Lunatic Asylum or elsewhere.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	—	—	—	In-door.	Out-door.	
Buckingham	–	884	70	–	62	–	111	–	5	1	–	22	–	1,219	–	–	–	73	–	22	–	49	–	36	–	–	–	–	2,554	2,554
Oxford -	–	557	46	–	79	–	207	–	13	2	–	15	–	95	–	252	–	122	–	90	–	240	–	42	74	8	6	–	1,884	1,884
Wilts - -	241	5,227	1,233	93	472	161	1421	5	47	48	39	136	115	2,633	121	1,317	33	1,036	13	428	11	2,152	58	145	180	10	79	966	16440	17,406
Kent - -	425	1,717	357	128	466	75	420	8	14	11	10	24	184	1,879	132	208	15	291	2	76	–	1,019	40	14	259	58	963	1,294	7,501	8,795
Northampton	47	1,797	448	11	289	15	433	9	33	2	13	75	40	605	4	474	9	453	5	163	10	372	6	106	15	1271	54	170	7,650	7,820
Suffolk -	438	3,366	616	83	439	117	661	4	16	17	29	88	439	1,634	280	2,379	21	636	6	167	2	684	53	134	52	229	31	1,509	11116	12,625
Norfolk -	9	256	79	10	156	19	231	–	–	1	1	16	7	537	4	31	1	200	–	52	–	105	–	47	5	2	–	51	2,329	2,380
Dorset -	157	1,750	204	19	111	31	275	6	15	18	15	46	18	256	1	36	18	210	5	82	–	144	25	25	84	348	27	378	3,512	3,890
Lincoln -	178	766	155	60	94	57	27	8	3	8	8	23	88	353	56	226	27	178	4	36	64	132	53	37	30	12	79	610	2,152	2,762
Essex - -	306	1,220	158	60	364	22	283	6	14	2	15	30	6	404	325	910	9	377	12	219	6	259	5	61	58	308	132	1,010	6,625	7,635
Leicester -	61	1,064	100	–	35	–	75	–	3	–	–	25	–	28	–	2	–	33	–	33	–	222	–	10	62	–	–	61	2,413	2,474
Gloucester -	200	784	288	106	116	69	247	4	13	21	18	23	33	101	15	23	40	367	10	165	31	224	30	23	135	15	–	566	2,535	3,101
TOTALS - -	2,062	19388	3,754	570	2,683	566	4391	50	176	131	148	523	930	9,744	938	5,858	173	2,976	57	1,533	124	5,602	270	680	954	2261	1371	6,615	66711	73,326
	25,204			3,253		4,957		357			671		10,674		6,796		3,149		1,590		5,726		950		4,586			73,326		

* *See* Note in p. 563.

— No. 10. —

AN ABSTRACT* of the Number of PAUPERS RELIEVED in 173 Unions, during the Quarter ended 25 March 1836, of which 109 Unions have been in Operation an Average Period of Ten Months, and 64 Unions an Average Period of nearly Five Months.

COUNTIES.	Aged and Infirm of both Sexes.			Orphan and Foundling Children.		Illegitimate Children.		Insane Persons and Lunatics.			Idiots.		ABLE-BODIED.												Names of the other Classes not included in the preceding.			Total Number of Poor receiving Relief.		TOTAL.
		Out-door.											Alleged Insufficiency of Earnings.		Who had lost Work or Place.		On account of Temporary Sickness.		Whose Families were relieved on account of Sickness.		Families relieved on account of the Number.		Families destitute on account of Misconduct of Parents.							
	In-door.	Resident.	Non-resident.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In Lunatic Asylum or elsewhere.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	—	—	—	In-door.	Out-door.	
Bedford	247	2,103	237	67	215	43	306	8	6	10	37	53	109	981	156	633	25	722	11	131	128	448	104	80	10	43	10	941	6,037	6,978
Buckingham	64	1,549	176	12	140	21	241	1	10	3	3	30	30	1,381	1	127	9	220	–	80	–	78	20	54	8	3	2	874	6,934	7,808
Oxford	95	1,887	190	45	253	64	457	4	29	18	22	58	49	727	8	353	22	361	–	183	–	307	16	87	74	8	6	325	5,033	5,358
Sussex	666	2,601	981	270	315	272	567	15	32	36	79	66	478	660	432	583	48	700	40	354	114	2,167	172	129	350	151	93	2,884	10181	13,029
Northampton	163	3,264	614	40	409	31	702	11	49	3	21	121	77	1,127	24	548	9	699	5	278	15	484	41	154	15	1382	54	461	12629	13,090
Kent	1,115	3,827	1,371	311	900	176	929	33	35	22	50	74	339	4,333	326	548	115	1,469	34	273	60	1,505	127	87	888	904	2857	3,338	21836	25,174
Berks	487	3,729	397	166	323	132	608	9	42	25	33	71	166	539	168	591	55	939	33	701	11	775	56	142	159	195	370	1,501	9,384	10,885
Middlesex	40	88	7	12	7	10	1	1	–	9	3	1	31	55	1	–	13	136	20	14	–	–	1	8	1	–	–	133	318	451
Wilts	276	5,622	1,316	102	484	179	1425	9	47	50	43	136	153	2,710	128	1,320	46	1,056	15	436	21	2,170	63	149	180	20	79	1,252	17955	19,207
Suffolk	612	4,593	1,116	130	637	140	977	10	32	30	36	128	487	2,053	428	3,354	29	896	12	299	18	965	56	160	112	385	153	2,164	17993	20,157
Hertford	679	2,365	358	255	278	61	183	13	7	34	57	54	38	269	194	72	75	581	17	250	36	293	43	43	78	46	70	1,594	5,193	6,787
Hampshire	613	4,591	897	271	871	202	1035	25	12	59	87	120	184	1,148	186	1,179	81	1,600	22	307	146	788	108	193	259	714	24	2,043	13686	15,729
Dorset	157	1,750	204	19	111	31	275	6	15	18	15	46	18	256	1	36	18	210	5	82	–	144	25	25	84	348	27	378	3,512	3,890
Lincoln	178	766	155	60	94	57	27	8	3	8	8	23	88	353	56	226	27	178	4	36	64	132	53	37	30	12	79	610	2,152	2,762
Norfolk	9	1,243	242	10	256	19	389	–	1	10	1	33	7	1,874	4	75	1	285	–	54	–	137	–	80	5	2	1084	51	6,381	6,432
Cambridge	24	1,070	158	1	181	9	173	3	14	1	7	24	53	179	48	181	2	269	–	64	3	99	6	48	154	7	19	157	2,640	2,797
Essex	551	3,124	433	121	618	48	561	9	19	9	27	81	98	969	512	1,127	29	1,322	12	400	11	401	38	115	158	356	133	1,778	11559	13,337
Gloucester	250	983	345	118	134	82	325	11	16	28	25	25	34	137	15	25	45	413	12	189	34	277	35	39	137	22	–	679	3,078	3,757
Leicester	61	1,064	100	–	35	–	75	–	3	–	–	25	–	28	–	2	–	33	–	33	–	222	–	10	62	–	–	61	2,413	2,474
TOTALS	6,287	46219	9,297	2,010	6,261	1577	5304	176	372	374	554	1169	2,439	19879	2,688	10980	646	11089	242	4,164	661	11401	964	1,640	2764	4598	5060	21188	158914	180102
	61,803			8,271		10,833		922			1,723		22,318		13,668		11,735		4,406		12,062		2,604		12,422			180,102		

* *See* Note in p. 563.

Appendix (D.)

No 11 *a.* Workhouses ordered to be Built.

— No. 11 *a.* —

LIST of WORKHOUSES ordered by the Poor Law Commissioners to be Built.

NAME OF UNION.	COUNTIES.	Number of Persons to be Accommodated.	Amount authorized to be Expended.		
			£.	*s.*	*d.*
Abingdon	Berks	500	9,000	–	–
Alderbury	Wilts	280	4,975	–	–
Alresford	Southampton	280	5,350	–	–
Amesbury	Wilts	150	3,508	–	–
Ampthill	Bedford	400	6,400	–	–
Andover	Hants and Wilts	300	5,200	–	–
Ashford, East	Kent	400	4,464	–	–
Ashford, West	Kent	300	5,900	–	–
Axbridge	Somerset	250	4,496	17	6
Aylesford, North	Kent	400	4,500	–	–
Banbury	Oxford and Northampton	300	6,200	–	–
Barnet	Hertford and Middlesex	200	3,757	–	–
Basingstoke	Hants and Berks	400	7,500	–	–
Bicester	Oxford and Berks	350	4,640	–	–
Biggleswade	Bedford	300	4,850	–	–
Bishops Stortford	Hertford and Essex	400	10,535	–	–
Blaby	Leicester	350	4,400	–	–
Blean	Kent	478	6,300	–	–
Blofield	Norfolk	250	5,810	–	–
Bourne	Lincoln	300	5,350	–	–
Brackley	Northampton, Oxford and Bucks	250	5,500	–	–
Bradfield	Berks, Oxford and Hants	250	7,450	–	–
Bradford	Somerset and Wilts	250	3,000	–	–
Bridge	Kent	500	5,000	–	–
Bridgewater	Somerset	300	7,500	–	–
Brixworth	Northampton	250	4,650	–	–
Bromyard	Hereford and Worcester	120	3,000	–	–
Buckingham	Buckingham and Oxford	250	5,500	–	–
Buntingford	Hertford	120	2,657	10	–
Catherington	Southampton	80	1,050	–	–
Cerne	Dorset	130	2,700	–	–
Chard	Somerset, Dorset and Devon	300	5,000	–	–
Chertsey	Surrey	200	4,250	–	–
Chesterton	Cambridge	300	6,467	10	9
Chipping Norton	Oxford, Gloucester and Warwick	350	6,143	–	–
Cirencester	Gloucester and Wilts	300	4,308	–	–
Clutton	Somerset	300	6,690	–	–
Colchester	Essex	300	7,950	–	–
Cookham	Berks	200	4,793	8	7
Cricklade and Wootton Bassett	Wilts	200	3,750	–	–
Daventry	Northampton	300	4,840	–	–
Depwade	Norfolk	460	8,240	–	–
Devizes	Wilts	400	6,700	–	–
Docking	Norfolk	450	9,125	–	–
Dorchester	Dorset	250	5,000	–	–
Eastry	Kent	500	7,085	–	–
Elham	Kent	300	6,500	–	–
Epping	Essex	220	6,000	–	–
Eton	Buckingham	300	6,239	7	6
Fareham	Hants	300	5,500	–	–
Faversham	Kent	500	6,360	–	–
Freebridge Lynn	Norfolk	150	4,000	–	–
Guiltcross	Norfolk	300	4,727	4	–
Hailsham	Sussex	250	3,960	–	–
Hastings	Sussex	300	5,286	–	–
Headington	Oxford	250	3,330	–	–
Hemel Hempstead	Hertford	200	3,450	–	–
Henstead	Norfolk	250	6,200	–	–
Hitchin	Hertford and Bedford	250	3,019	15	–
Holbeach	Lincoln	386	4,830	–	–
Hollingbourne	Kent	300	5,000	–	–
Honiton	Warwick and Leicester	200	5,022	–	–
Hoo	Kent	160	2,300	–	–
Hoxne	Suffolk	300	8,274	–	–
Ipswich	Suffolk	400	6,585	–	–

Appendix (D.)

No. 11 *a.* Workhouses ordered to be Built.

continued.]

NAME OF UNION.	COUNTIES.	Number of Persons to be Accommodated.	Amount authorized to be Expended.
			£. s. d.
Leighton Buzzard	Bedford and Buckingham	350	5,831 – –
Linton	Cambridge and Essex	230	5,878 – –
Luton	Bedford and Hertford	300	4,655 – –
Lymington	Southampton	200	4,500 – –
Malling	Kent	360	5,300 – –
Market Bosworth	Leicester	250	4,496 17 6
Market Harborough	Leicester and Northampton	300	4,600 – –
Melton Mowbray	Nottingham and Leicester	250	6,000 – –
Milton	Kent	500	5,342 – –
Newbury	Berks and Hants	350	5,332 19 –
New Forest	Hants	200	5,000 – –
Newmarket	Cambridge and Suffolk	300	7,900 – –
Newhaven	Sussex	150	3,300 – –
Newport Pagnell	Buckingham	300	7,000 – –
New Winchester	Hants	300	5,194 – –
Northampton	Northampton	300	7,000 – –
Northleach	Gloucester	200	3,650 – –
Oundle	Northampton and Huntingdon	150	4,400 – –
Penshurst	Kent	200	2,258 – –
Pershore	Worcester	212	2,560 – –
Peterborough	Northampton, Huntingdon and Lincoln	200	4,172 10 –
Pewsey	Wilts	200	3,213 – –
Plomesgate	Suffolk	250	6,200 – –
River	Kent	500	6,300 – –
Royston	Hertford, Cambridge and Essex	300	6,400 – –
Saffron Walden	Essex	300	7,555 – –
Shaftesbury	Dorset	250	4,000 – –
Shipston-on-Stour	Worcester, Warwick and Gloucester	300	5,500 – –
Southam	Warwick	200	3,600 – –
Spalding	Lincoln	300	5,950 – –
Stamford	Lincoln, Huntingdon, Northampton and Rutland	300	4,800 – –
Steyning	Sussex	153	4,800 – –
Sudbury	Suffolk and Essex	400	9,000 – –
Swaffham	Norfolk	405	5,425 – –
Sturminster	Dorset	150	3,200 – –
Taunton	Somerset and Devon	400	6,100 – –
Thame	Oxford and Bucks	350	6,990 – –
Thanet, Isle of	Kent	400	6,583 – –
Thetford	Norfolk and Suffolk	300	5,375 – –
Thingoe	Suffolk	300	6,360 – –
Thrapston	Northampton and Huntingdon	200	4,400 – –
Ticehurst	Sussex	300	4,700 – –
Tonbridge	Kent	400	4,600 – –
Torrington	Devon	200	2,800 – –
Towcester	Northampton	208	4,000 – –
Upton-on-Severn	Worcester	150	3,360 – –
Wallingford	Berks and Oxford	300	4,590 10 –
Wantage	Berks	230	3,290 5 –
Warminster	Wilts	300	7,000 – –
Wayland	Norfolk	250	4,128 9 2
Wells	Somerset	300	4,850 – –
Wellingborough	Northampton	250	5,000 – –
Weobly	Hereford	80	3,000 – –
West Firle	Sussex	180	2,950 – –
Weymouth	Dorset	300	4,950 – –
Wilton	Wilts	280	5,720 – –
Wincanton	Somerset and Dorset	140	3,300 – –
Winchcomb	Gloucester and Worcester	180	3,750 – –
Winslow	Buckingham	250	5,250 – –
Witney	Oxford, Berks and Gloucester	450	7,500 – –
Woburn	Bedford	300	6,525 – –
Woodstock	Oxford	300	3,700 – –

— No. 11 *b.* —

LIST of Workhouses ordered by the Poor Law Commissioners to be Altered or Enlarged.

NAME OF UNION.	COUNTIES.	Amount authorized to be Expended. £.	s.	d.
Alton	Hants	400	–	–
Aylsham	Norfolk	1,200	–	–
Battle	Sussex	500	–	–
Bedford	Bedford	1,800	–	–
Blandford	Dorset	1,200	–	–
Blything	Suffolk	700	–	–
Bosmere and Claydon	Suffolk	1,000	–	–
Calne	Wilts	1,400	–	–
Chailey	Sussex	1,250	–	–
Christchurch	Hants	350	–	–
Cosford	Suffolk	1,402	–	–
Cuckfield	Sussex	1,420	–	–
Dartford	Kent	3,600	–	–
Dunmow	Essex	1,000	–	–
East Hampstead	Berks	400	–	–
East Grinstead	Sussex and Surrey	152	–	–
Ely	Cambridge	143	3	–
Erpingham	Norfolk	836	–	–
Faringdon	Berks and Oxford	1,500	–	–
Fordingbridge	Hants and Wilts	820	–	–
Gravesend and Milton	Kent	75	–	–
Halstead	Essex	700	–	–
Hardingstone	Northampton	800	–	–
Hartley Wintney	Hants	2,000	–	–
Havant	Hants	900	–	–
Hendon	Middlesex	500	–	–
Henley	Oxford and Berks	2,680	–	–
Hertford	Hertford	350	–	–
Highworth & Swindon	Wilts	850	–	–
Hailsham	Sussex	500	–	–
Horsham	Sussex	1,700	–	–
Hungerford	Berks, Wilts and Hants	3,250	–	–
Ipswich	Suffolk	91	–	–
Kingsclere	Hants	4,225	–	–
Lambeth	Surrey	163	4	8
Lewes	Sussex	900	–	–
Loddon and Clavering	Norfolk	3,145	10	–
Lutterworth	Leicester and Warwick	152	–	–
Maldon	Essex	3,000	–	–
Midhurst	Sussex and Hants	6,531	–	–
Meriden	Warwick	1,260	–	–
Mildenhall	Suffolk	400	–	–
Mitford and Launditch	Norfolk	1,500	–	–
Newent	Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester	300	–	–
Potterspury	Northampton and Bucks	2,000	–	–
Risbridge	Suffolk and Essex	400	–	–
Romney Marsh	Kent	1,050	–	–
Romsey	Hants and Wilts	900	–	–
Rye	Sussex and Kent	1,400	–	–
St. Faith's	Norfolk	800	–	–
St. Giles', Camberwell	Surrey	2,500	–	–
St. Mary, Rotherhithe	Surrey	1,000	–	–
Seven Oaks	Kent	1,500	–	–
Sheppy	Kent	1,000	–	–
Shepton Mallet	Somerset	2,250	–	–
South Molton	Devon	131	10	–
South Stoneham	Hants	550	–	–
Stow	Suffolk	672	10	–
Strand	Middlesex	263	–	–
Sudbury	Suffolk and Essex	31	–	–
Tendring	Essex	89	–	–
Tenterden	Kent	1,100	–	–
Tewkesbury	Gloucester and Worcester	500	–	–
Thakeham	Sussex	2,355	–	–
Tisbury	Wilts	2,000	–	–
Tiverton	Devon	20	–	–
Wangford	Suffolk	500	–	–
Ware	Hertford	1,000	–	–
Westbury-on-Severn	Gloucester	500	–	–
Westbury & Whorwellsdown	Wilts	3,849	–	–
Westbourn	Sussex	2,000	–	–
Wheatenhurst	Gloucester	1,745	–	–
Whitchurch	Hants	1,400	–	–
West Hampnett	Sussex	4,000	–	–
Wokingham	Berks and Wilts	1,390	–	–
Woodbridge	Suffolk	700	–	–
Wycombe	Buckingham and Oxford	1,209	7	–
Wimborne	Dorset	1,000	–	–

— No. 12. —

TABLE, showing the Proportions of the Number of Owners to the Number of Occupiers, and the Number of Owners' Proxies to the Number of Occupiers in the several Parishes and Unions in the Metropolis; and also the Proportions of the Votes of Owners to the Votes of Occupiers, and the Votes of Owners' Proxies to the Votes of Occupiers.

NAME of UNION.	NAME of PARISH.	Population.	Number of Guardians.	Total Number of Voters who actually voted.			Proportions of		Total Number of Votes recorded for the elected Guardians.			Proportions of	
				Owners.	Owners' Proxies.	Occupiers.	Owners to Occupiers.	Owners' Proxies to Occupiers.	Owners.	Owners' Proxies.	Occupiers.	Owners' Votes to Occupiers' Votes.	Owners' Proxies' Votes to Occupiers' Votes.
Holborn	St. Andrew with St. George-the-Martyr, Middlesex.	42,433	14	372	included in preceding.	1,270	1–3	included in preceding.	882	included in preceding.	518	1–7	included in preceding.
	The liberty of Saffron-hill, Hatton-garden, Ely-rents and Ely-place.	9,745	6	- - -	- -	- -	- no contest.						
St. Olave's	St. Olave	8,694	6	67	62	289	1–4	1–5	154	117	307	1–2	1–3
	St. Thomas	1,456	2	- -	- -	- -	- no contest.						
	St. John, Horslydown	9,871	7	91	24	498	1–5	1–21	278	117	551	1–2	1–5
St. Saviour's	St. Saviour	18,006	9	61	101	890	1–15	1–9	171	332	525	1–3	1–2
	Christchurch	13,705	8	149	106	1,067	1–7	1–10	138	106	596	1–4	1–6
Strand	St. Paul, Covent-garden.	5,203	4	73	65	475	1–7	1–7	215	195	504	1–2	1–3
	St. Mary-le-Strand	2,052	2	- -	- -	- -	- no contest.						
	Savoy Precinct	431	1	- -	- -	- -	- no contest.						
	St. Clement Danes	11,578	10	76	53	668	1 9	1–13	280	185	545	1–2	1–3
	Duchy of Lancaster	410	1	- -	- -	- -	- no contest.						
	Liberty of the Rolls	2,682	2	24	12	164	1–7	1–14	91	19	162	1–2	1–9
Wandsworth and Clapham.	Wandsworth	6,879	4	- -	- -	- -	- no content.						
	Clapham	9,958	6	- -	- -	- -	- no contest.						
	Putney	3,811	2	18	included in preceding.	125	1–7	included in preceding.	105	included in preceding.	137	1–1.3	included in preceding.
	Streatham	5,068	2	none	none	341	0–341	0–341	none	none	317	0–317	0–317
	Tooting Graveney	2,063	2	- -	- -	- -	- no contest.						
	Battersea	5,540	3	- -	- -	- -	- no contest.						
Single Parishes	St. Martin-in-the-Fields.	23,732	24	214	76	1,696	1–8	1–22	513	80	1,272	1–3 nearly.	1–16
	St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark.	39,769	18	143	581	3,282	1–23	1–6	319	1,242	1,599	1–5	1.3–1
	St. Giles', Camberwell	28,231	18	390	included in preceding.	1,677	1–4	included in preceding.	737	included in preceding.	826	1–1.1	included in preceding.
	Lambeth	87,856	20	282	51	3,656	1–13	1 72	735	164	2,092	1–3	1–13
	St. Mary, Rotherhithe	12,875	15	18	2	641	1–36	1–321	52	4	309	1–6	1–77
	St. Leonard, Shoreditch.	68,564	21	104	10	5,595	1–54	1–560	212	40	2,256	1–11	1–56
	St. Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey.	29,741	18	471	349	1,221	1–3	1–35	384	890	785	1–2	1.1–1
	St. George-in the-East	38,505	18	110	44	2,147	1–20	1–49	172	136	1,021	1–6	1–8
	St. Matthew, Bethnal-green.	62,018	20	250	87	2,432	1–10	1–28	443	203	1,193	1–3	1–6
	St. Pancras	103,548	20	4,044	included in preceding.	3,605	1.1–1	included in preceding.	- - -	- not stated.			
				6,957	1,623				5,881	3,830			
	SUMMARY			8,580		31,739			9,711		15,515		
				Proportion of owners and owners' proxies to occupiers		=1–4			Proportion of owners and owners' proxies votes to occupiers' votes		=1–16=$\frac{5}{80}$		

Appendix (D.)

No. 13.
Emigration Return.

— No. 13. —

STATEMENT of the Number of Persons who have Emigrated, &c. under the sanction of the Poor Law Commissioners, between June 1835 and July 1836.

COUNTY.	NAME OF PARISH.	Amount raised or borrowed either from the Exchequer Loan Office, or from private Individuals. £. s. d.	Number of Persons who have Emigrated.	To what part Emigrated.
Bedford - -	Elstow - - -	100 – –	13	Canada.
	Wootton - -	115 – –	5	Lower Canada.
Buckingham -	Township of Quainton and hamlets of Denham and Duddershall.	100 – –	25	United States.
Berks - -	Childrey - -	150 – –	30	Upper Canada.
Cambridge -	Gamlingay - -	100 – –	15	- ditto.
	Tadlow - - -	50 – –	20	- ditto.
	Wimpole - -	51 – –	4	- ditto.
Huntingdon -	Buckden - -	100 – –	9	- ditto.
	Tetworth - -	100 – –	18	- ditto.
Hants - -	Bramley - - -	100 – –	21	Lower Canada.
	Bourne, St. Mary -	99 – –	15	Upper Canada.
	Basingstoke - -	50 – –	3	- ditto.
	Farlington - -	40 – –	11	South Australia.
	Goodworth Clatford	30 – –	4	Canada.
	Hurstborne Priors -	200 – –	38	Lower Canada.
	Long Parish - -	100 – –	30	Upper Canada.
	Pamber - - -	135 – –	14	- ditto.
	Twyford - - -	114 14 –	11	Australia.
	Wherwell - -	100 – –	26	Upper Canada.
	Wootton, St. Lawrence	100 – –	9	Canada.
Kent - -	Barham - - -	50 – –	23	United States.
	Benenden - -	31 19 9	5	New York.
	Brabourn - -	60 – –	8	- ditto.
	Cheriton - -	230 10 –	43	Upper Canada.
	Chislet - - -	75 – –	16	New York.
	Egerton - -	150 – –	26	Upper Canada.
	Elmstone - -	5 – –	1	- ditto.
	Folkestone - -	200 – –	28	- ditto.
	Headcorn - -	90 – –	8	- ditto.
	Lawrence, St. - -	30 – –	5	- ditto.
	Lenham - - -	150 – –	23	Canada.
	Mongeham, Great -	50 – –	10	Upper Canada.
	Newington - -	160 – –	22	- ditto.
	Otterden - -	50 19 6	9	- ditto.
	Preston, next Mingham.	40 – –	7	Mansfield.
	Saltwood - -	250 – –	8	Baltimore.
			36	Upper Canada.
	Throwley - -	100 – –	12	Canda.
	Ulcomb - - -	100 – –	30	ditto.
Lincoln - -	Hough-on-the-Hill -	100 – –	17	ditto.
Middlesex -	James, St., Westminster.	860 – –	88	- - New Brunswick, Montreal, Hamilton, Cape of Good Hope, Algoa Bay, and Upper Canada.
Norfolk - -	Ally - - -	100 – –	15	Quebec.
	Aldborough - -	100 – –	21	- - British Settlements, North America.
	Aldely - - -	100 – –	26	Quebec.
	Burnham Overy -	165 – –	20	Canada.
	Burnham Thorpe -	200 – –	8	Washington.
			28	Canada and Quebec.
	Binham - - -	150 – –	27	Lower Canada.
	Barwick - - -	55 – –	12	Quebec.
	Blakeney - -	100 – –	12	Canada.
	Banham - - -	700 – –	250	Lower Canada.
	Bale - - -	200 – –	30	Canada.
	Bressingham - -	150 – –	27	Quebec.
	Burston - - -	200 – –	29	Canada.
	Buckenham, Old -	150 – –	28	ditto.
	Buckenham, New -	120 – –	18	Lower Canada.
	Blo' Norton - -	150 – –	19	Canada.

(continued)

Appendix (D.)

No. 13. Emigration Return.

COUNTY.	NAME OF PARISH.	Amount raised or borrowed either from the Exchequer Loan Office, or from private Individuals. £.	s.	d.	Number of Persons who have Emigrated.	To what part Emigrated.
Norfolk	Bradenham, East	30	–	–	3	New Liverpool.
	Banningham	150	–	–	25	Upper Canada.
	Brinton	45	–	–	6	ditto.
	Bacton	80	–	–	18	Quebec.
	Burnham, Westgate	200	–	–	22	Upper Canada.
	Brooke	70	–	–	11	ditto.
	Barningham	200	–	–	51	ditto.
	Briston	450	–	–	87	Canada.
	Creake, North	400	–	–	90	Quebec.
	Carbrook	200	–	–	67	Upper Canada.
	Calthorpe	70	–	–	14	Canada.
	Corpustye	60	–	–	15	Quebec.
	Dunham, Great	300	–	–	23	Upper Canada.
	Ellingham, Great	450	–	–	66	British Settlements, North America.
	Edgfield	500	–	–	123	Canada.
	Field Dalling	100	–	–	15	ditto.
	Fransham, Little	51	–	–	12	Quebec.
	Foulsham	100	–	–	23	Upper Canada.
	Fulmodeston-cum-Croxton.	190	–	–	85	Canada.
	Gunthorpe	200	–	–	33	ditto.
	Guestwick	200	–	–	37	Upper Canada.
	Hindolveston	400	–	–	70	British Settlements, North America.
	Holme-next-the-Sea	130	–	–	24	Canada.
	Hindringham	250	–	–	18	Quebec.
	Heacham	90	–	–	22	Canada.
	Harling, East	100	–	–	15	ditto.
	Heydon	126	–	–	56	ditto.
	Hockford-next-Reepham.	70	–	–	13	Quebec.
	Hanworth	140	–	–	41	Canada.
	Hockering	100	–	–	20	Upper Canada.
	Holt	250	–	–	72	Canada.
	Ingoldsthorpe	75	–	–	12	Quebec.
	Itteringham	200	–	–	35	British Settlements, North America.
	Kenninghall	500	–	–	75	North America.
	Kettlestone	200	–	–	38	Quebec.
	Kelling	60	–	–	16	Upper Canada.
	Langham	145	–	–	37	Canada.
	Larling	40	–	–	5	ditto.
	Letheringsett	190	–	–	31	Montreal.
	Lyng	300	–	–	54	Upper Canada.
	Mattishall	70	–	–	5	Quebec.
	Newton	40	–	–	9	ditto.
	Northwold	100	–	–	27	Lower Canada.
	Oulton	100	–	–	18	Upper Canada.
	Pentney	60	–	–	18	Quebec.
	Plumstead	90	–	–	22	ditto.
	Ringstead, Great	150	–	–	26	Upper Canada.
	Ryburgh, Great	400	–	–	68	Quebec.
	Reepham-cum-Keidestone.	350	–	–	56	Upper Canada.
	Sharrington	130	–	–	23	Canada.
	Swarrington	50	–	–	8	Quebec.
	Sparham	60	–	–	13	ditto.
	Stibbard	200	–	–	31	Canada.
	Saxlingham	160	–	–	32	Quebec.
	Sustead	40	–	–	6	ditto.
	Sporle-with-Palgrave	250	–	–	51	Canada.
	Swanton Novers	45	10	–	22	ditto.
	Swannington	10	–	–	7	Upper Canada.
	Snettisham	350	–	–	47	Quebec.
	Snoring, Little	180	–	–	41	ditto.
	Saxthorpe	350	–	–	81	Upper Canada.
	Sall	200	–	–	34	Canada.
	Toft Monks	80	–	–	22	ditto.
	Thurning	150	–	–	28	Upper Canada.
	Thornage	100	–	–	13	Upper Canada.
	Thornham	40	–	–	8	Quebec.
	Tompson	56	–	–	16	Port St. Francis.

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Appendix (D.)

No. 13.
Emigration Return.

COUNTY.	NAME OF PARISH.	Amount raised or borrowed either from the Exchequer Loan Office, or from private Individuals. £. s. d.	Number of Persons who have Emigrated.	To what part Emigrated.
Norfolk - -	Tuddenham, East -	150 – –	25	Upper Canada.
	Witchingham, Great	100 – –	24	Quebec.
	Winfarthing - -	300 – –	74	Upper Canada.
	Wiveton - - -	40 – –	10	Quebec.
	Weston Longville -	150 – –	28	Upper Canada.
	Walpole, St. Andrew	100 – –	21	Quebec.
	Waborne - -	35 – –	5	ditto.
	Wood Dalling -	300 – –	57	Canada.
	Walpole, St. Peter -	160 – –	42	ditto.
Northampton -	Kettering - -	25 – –	10	United States.
	Loys Weedon - -	110 – –	13	New York.
Oxford - -	Bloxham - -	30 – –	7	Upper Canada.
	Wheatley - -	10 – –	4	New York.
Somerset -	Badgworth - -	35 – –	7	United States.
	Bruton - - -	15 – –	4	Upper Canada.
Sussex - -	Billinghurst - -	115 – –	16	ditto.
	Bexhill - - -	130 – –	17	New York.
	Battle - - -	140 – –	20	United States.
	Beckley - - -	29 14 4	3	New York.
	Cowhurst - -	62 – –	7	United States.
	Easebourne - -	15 – –	7	Upper Canada.
	Finden - - -	200 – –	35	- ditto.
	Graffham - -	35 – –	6	- ditto.
	Hove - - -	350 – –	52	New York.
	Pulborough - -	200 – –	1	United States.
	Pevensey - -	90 – –	4	Upper Canada.
	Petworth - -	90 – –	19	Toronto.
	Tillington - -	140 – –	24	Canada.
	Wisborough Green -	263 – –	21	ditto.
	Wiston - - -	9 – –	1	Upper Canada.
	Worthing - -	20 – –	4	United States.
	Walberton - -	143 18 –	11	Upper Canada.
Suffolk - -	Beccles - - -	50 – –	8	Canada.
	Bottesdale - -	150 – –	24	ditto.
	Carlton Colville -	150 – –	23	ditto.
	Cratfield - - -	200 – –	40	ditto.
	Cretingham - -	100 – –	21	ditto.
	Cove, South - -	28 – –	13	Upper Canada.
	Cove, North - -	2 – –	1	New York.
	Frostenden - -	100 – –	21	Upper Canada.
	Fressingfield - -	250 – –	36	Montreal.
	Henstead, with Hulver-street.	50 – –	20	Canada.
	Ilketshall, St. Lawrence	35 – –	7	Quebec.
	Ilketshall, St. Andrew	100 – –	21	Canada.
	Ilketshall, St. John -	45 – –	9	Upper Canada.
	Kettleburgh - -	250 – –	42	- ditto.
	Lawshall - -	90 – –	60	Canada.
	Palgrave - -	110 – –	15	ditto.
	Redgrave - -	250 – –	48	Quebec.
	Rumburgh - -	50 – –	10	Upper Canada.
	Shadingfield - -	50 – –	8	Quebec.
	Stradbroke - -	450 – –	91	ditto.
	Stratford, St. Andrew	53 – –	9	Upper Canada.
	Stanningfield - -	45 – –	10	Canada.
	Thorndon, All Saints	600 – –	95	ditto.
	Thelnetham - -	200 – –	22	Quebec.
	Thrandiston - -	130 – –	19	ditto.
	Thornham Parva -	40 – –	6	ditto.
	Ulbeston - -	50 – –	7	Canada.
	Walsham-le-Willows	200 – –	17	Quebec.
	Wingfield - -	150 – –	24	Montreal.
	Wissett - - -	50 – –	16	Canada.
	Wenhaston - -	100 – –	31	ditto.
	Yaxley - - -	70 – –	13	Quebec.
Wilts - -	Durrington - -	100 – –	36	Upper Canada.
	Downton - -	1,300 – –	220	Quebec.
	Endford - - -	25 – –	8	Canada.
	Purton - - -	317 – –	38	Upper Canada.
	White Parish - -	300 – –	45	- ditto.
	TOTAL - - £.	28,414 – 7	5,141	

Appendix (D.)

No. 13.
Emigration Return.

SUMMARY OF PRECEDING STATEMENT.

COUNTY.	NUMBER of PARISHES.	NUMBER of EMIGRANTS.	AMOUNT ordered to be raised or borrowed. £.	s.	d.
Bedford	2	18	215	–	–
Buckingham	1	25	100	–	–
Berks	1	30	150	–	–
Cambridge	3	39	201	–	–
Huntingdon	2	27	200	–	–
Hants	11	182	1,068	14	–
Kent	18	320	1,823	9	3
Lincoln	1	17	100	–	–
Middlesex	1	88	860	–	–
Northampton	2	23	135	–	–
Norfolk	91	3,068	15,198	10	–
Oxford	2	11	40	–	–
Somerset	2	11	50	–	–
Sussex	17	248	2,032	7	4
Suffolk	32	787	4,198	–	–
Wilts	5	347	2,042	–	–
Total	191	5,141	28,414	–	7

APPENDIX N° 15

WORKHOUSE FOR 200 PAUPERS.

ADAPTED FOR THE LESS PAUPERISED DISTRICTS.

GROUND PLAN.

N° 1.

ACCOMMODATION.

	GROUND	ONE FAIR	TOTAL
MEN	42	42	84
WOMEN	34	40	74
BOYS	"	28	28
GIRLS	"	26	26
			212

Sampson Kempthorne, Architect,

Carlton Chambers,

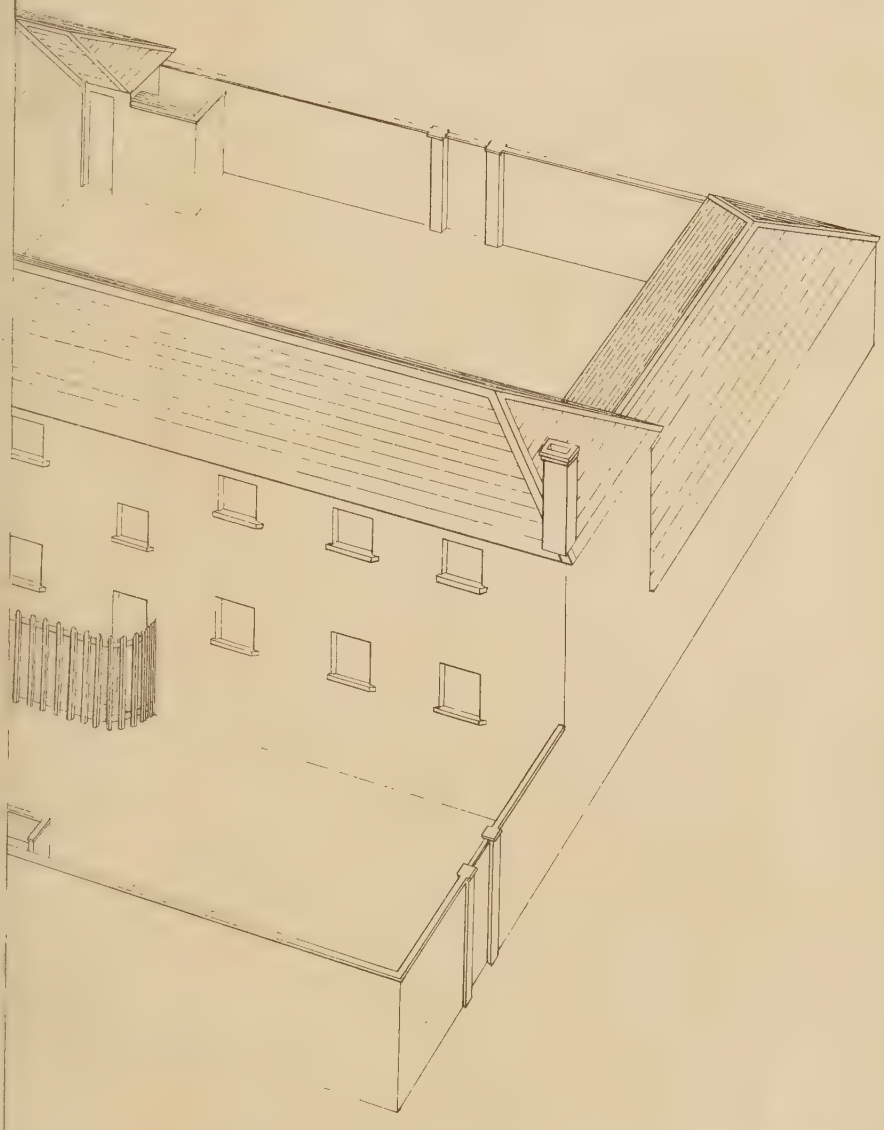
12 Regent Street.

APPENDIX N° 15

WORKHOUSE FOR 200 PAUPERS,

ADAPTED FOR THE LESS PAUPERISED DISTRICTS.

PERSPECTIVE VIEW, N°3.



Sampson Kempthorne, Architect

Carlton Chambers,

12 Regent Street.